

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREVENTING CHILD
LABOUR IN RICE PRODUCTION IN BODI DISTRICT

BY

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Thesis submitted to the Department of Integrated Development Studies of the
School for Development Studies, College of Humanities and Legal Studies,
University of Cape Coast, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
award of Master of Philosophy degree in Development Studies

AUGUST 2023

DECLARATION

Candidate's Declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own original research and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this university or elsewhere.

Candidate's Signature..... Date.....

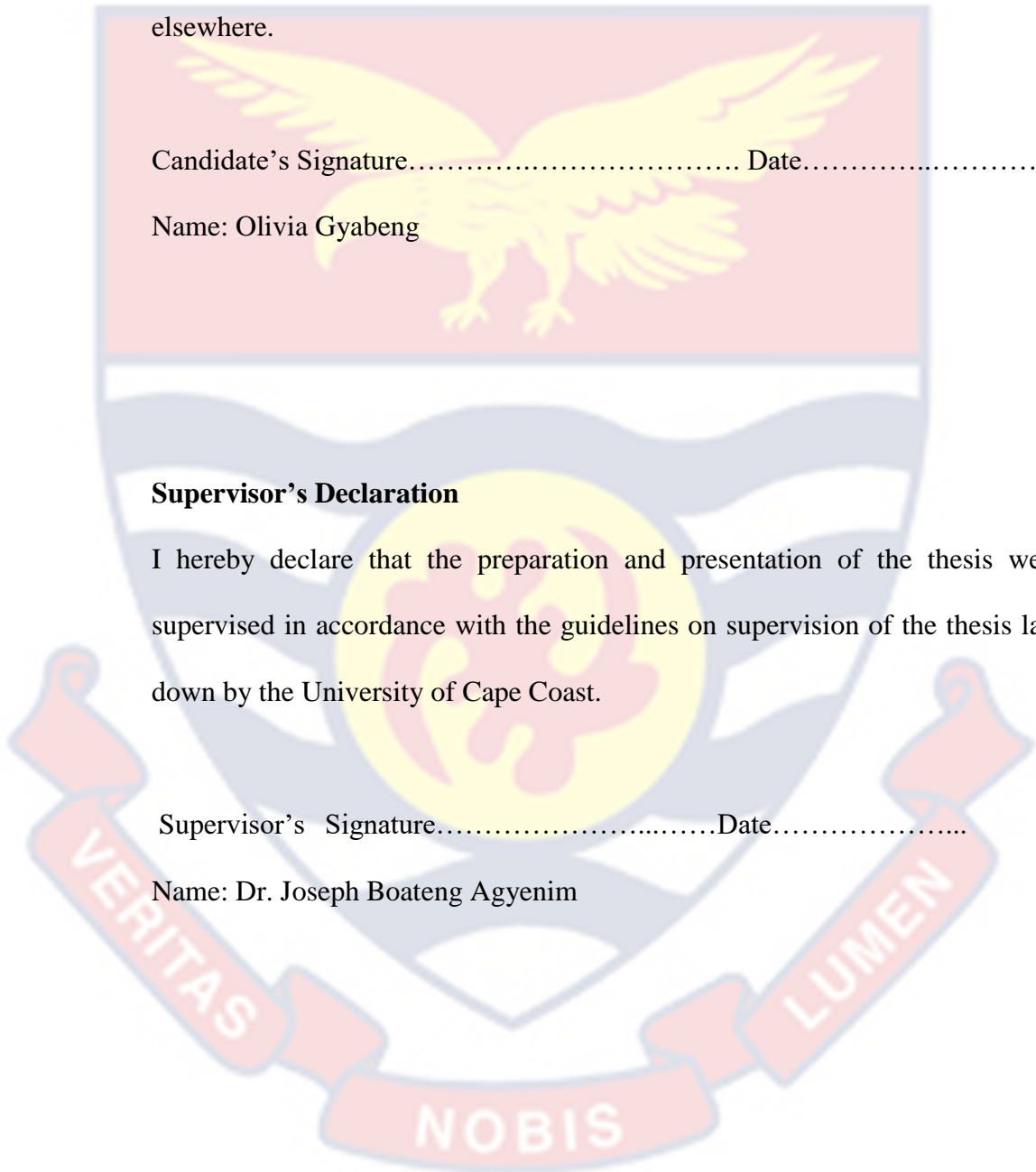
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Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the thesis were supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of the thesis laid down by the University of Cape Coast.

Supervisor's Signature.....Date.....

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ABSTRACT

Child labour is still prominent in Ghana, particularly in the rice growing district of Bodi. This study sought to investigate the institutional arrangements for preventing child labour in the Bodi district. Using the structural functionalism theory and a qualitative research approach, the study employed the exploratory design. Purposive and convenient sampling techniques were used to select participants for the study. Data were gathered using an interview guide and observation checklist. A total of thirty-two participants were identified. They included six formal institution key informants, sixteen child labourers and 10 parents. The interview data were recorded, categorised, and subjected to a thematic analysis. The study found that Ghana's 1992 constitution mandates numerous agencies to defend children's right. Three government agencies operate at the district level. These were the Social Welfare Department, the NCCE and CHRAJ. In addition, the Assemblyman and traditional authority operate at the district level. The data also showed that three NGOs operate in the district by partnering with the three government agencies/organisation to combat child labour. However, their impact is limited due to a number of constraints including inadequate funding and resources. These organisations' efforts have not produced the anticipated results of decreasing or eliminating with child labour. The study concluded that children living in the Bodi district are highly involved in child labour which affect their development. The study recommended to government to consider timely budget for agencies mandated to eliminate child labour in the Bodi district.

KEYWORDS

Agencies

Child Labour

Institutional Arrangement

Regulatory Mechanism

Rice Production

Structural Functionalism



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to convey my heartfelt appreciation to my supervisor, Dr. Joseph Boateng Agyenim for his professional guidance, patience, commitment, and encouragement through this work despite his tight schedules. I am really grateful.

To my mum and dad (Kwabena Gyabeng and Mercy Nkrumah) your motivation, checks and support have brought me this far. I owe much appreciation to Prof. James Peprah, Prof. Stephen Ocansey and Clifford Koranteng for showing much interest in my academic and personal life. My heartfelt gratitude also goes to Mr. Jonas Arhin and Mr. Clement Abaidoo for their support during my research work and my stay in Cape Coast.

I am grateful to my siblings, Edmund Gyabeng and Felicity Gyabeng, as well as others who have provided me with various forms of support. I have not forgotten my colleagues at the School for Development Studies for their support, especially Sharonrose Adom Asiaw who helped during my data gathering.

I will remember the multitude of individuals who expressed good wishes, especially the Head of Social welfare Department, Head of CHRAJ (Mr Odum) NCCE and World Vision (Charles Okrah) in the Western North District for their support and cooperation.

DEDICATION

To my parents, Mr Kwabena Gyabeng and Mercy Nkrumah.



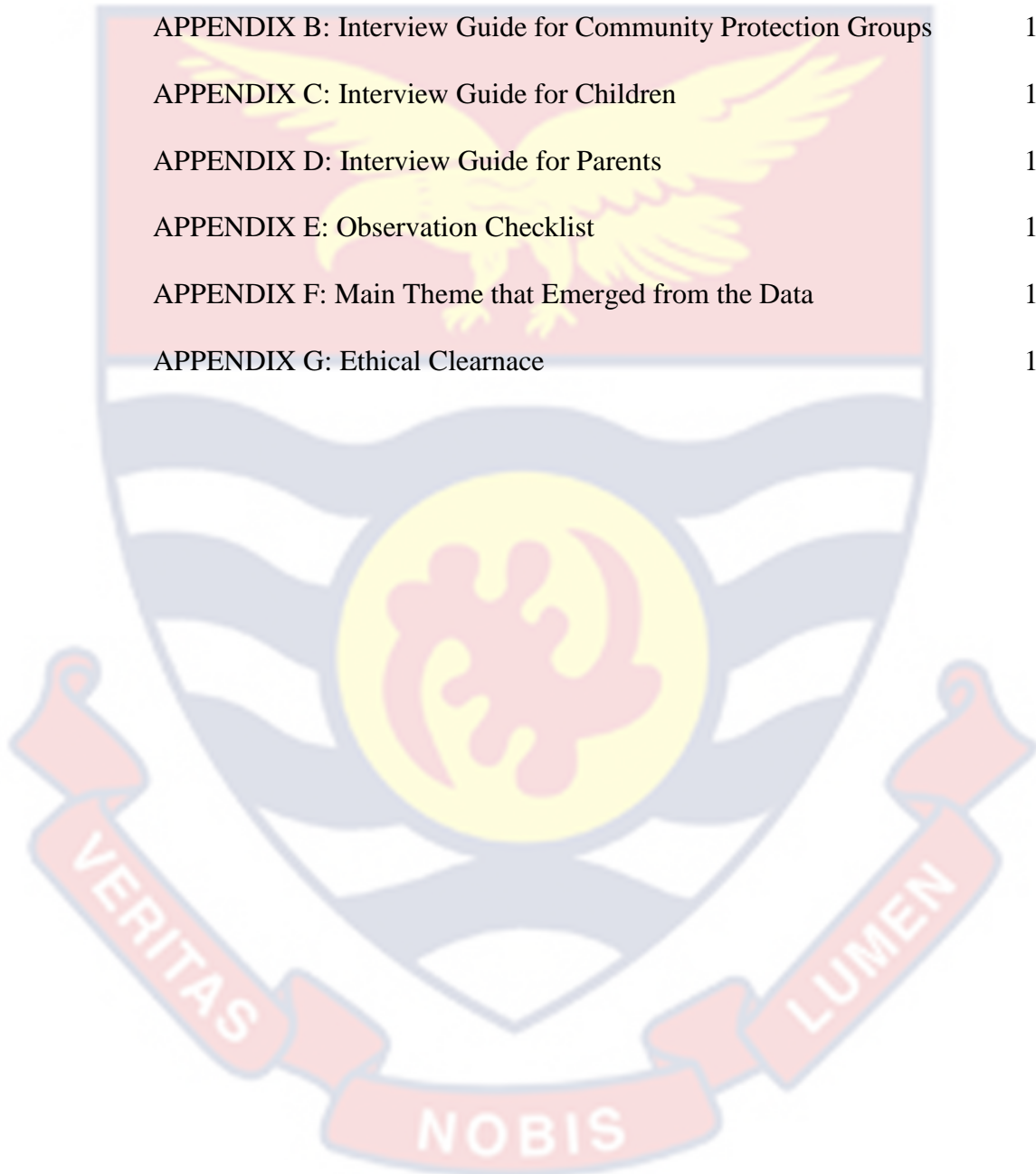
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ACRONYMS

CHRAJ Commission on Human Right and Administrative Justice

DSW Department of Social Welfare

FCUBE Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (Ghana)

ILO International Labour Organisation

NCCE National Commission for Civic Education

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

Child labour has become a worrying phenomenon and has received an unprecedented condemnation globally. According to ILO (2017), approximately 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 are involved in child labour. Of this estimated number, 30 percentage come from Sub Sahara Africa who are usually engaged in agricultural production, including rice farming. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 and 7, calls for the abolition of all forms of child labour by 2025. Without the abolition of child labour in agriculture, the world will not be able to reach this goal (ILO, 2017). Okyere (2012), established that, using children in economic activities tends to interfere with the attainment of universal primary education.

It is important to emphasise, however, that not all work done by children is considered child labour. Child labour can be traced back to the days of the industrial revolution. While Britain and America were developing contemporary civilisation, there was an exceptionally high demand for labour throughout the industrial revolution (1760-1840). Children as young as seven years old were working in industries for low pay to support their impoverished families (Morabito, 2019). According to ILO (2017) child labour refers to work that deprives children of their youth, their potential and their dignity and is destructive to their physical and mental development. Employment that interferes with their education by denying children the ability to attend school, forcing them to leave school early, or forcing them to try to balance school attendance with overly long and heavy work (Adonteng Kissi,2019).

There are many types of child labour which includes slavery, child trafficking, debt bondage and force labour. The most adverse types of Childs Labour according to ILO convention of 1999 (No. 182) divides these practices into three categories. The coercive recruitment of children to serve as armed combatants and the exploitation of youngsters as bondservants for financial demands. This influences the child's physical and mental development because child labour is hard work, much like slave labour. Another of the worst types of child labour is employing children for unethical activities such as prostitution or pornography, which detrimentally impacts their moral development. The third classification among the worst forms is using kids for unlawful operations like drug trafficking. Such activities are inherently harmful due to their dangerous nature and negative influence on the safety and morality of the children involved. A majority of the most egregious child labour is performed by children from extremely impoverished backgrounds and difficult socioeconomic conditions (Okyere et al., 2021).

Relatedly, institutions basically refer to formal and informal mechanism that are put in place to regulate and check the way of life in a particular society. Formal institutions refer to the laws and regulations, rules and other codified artefacts that govern the conduct of people in a given society. On the other hand, informal institutions relate to the norms, shared values, customs and by-laws put forth by a society to regulate its subject. As part of the measures to curb child labour several Acts such as the labour Acts 2003, Acts 651, the Justice Acts 1993, Acts 456 and Children Act 1996, Acts 560 among several others have been enacted to check issues regarding child labour in Ghana (Adiza 2020).

Notwithstanding the enactment of the above-mentioned Acts, Child labour persists as a result of functioning and dysfunctioning of various institutional arrangements put in place by society as claimed by the Parson's (1954) structural functionalism theory. Ending child labour is critical to improving quality education and good health in both developed and developing country as spelt out in the SGDs 3 and 4 (ILO,2017). Improving institutional policies on child labour can lead to development and economic growth. The International Labour Office in 2017 stated that lowering child labour decreases decent work shortages, thereby promoting employment environments of freedom, safety, fairness and human decency. Concrete institutional rules and regulations can provide oversight of children subjected to child labour (Nogler & Pertile, 2016).

According to Mitra and Murayama (2009), several factors such as family size, income and fertility as well as other economic and demographic factors like education level, income levels, poverty, underemployment and unemployment, among others, have been linked to the root causes of child labour. Localised socio-economic vulnerabilities and rising disparities serve as the main drivers of child labour in Ghana. (Asante & Amuakwa 2014). According to the ILO/IPEC Ghana survey (2001), when it becomes more difficult for parents to meet their kids' necessities, especially those related to school. Children are compelled by economic difficulties to care for their immediate family solely, breaking with traditional norms and beliefs that bonded the extended family and clan members together.

The 2004 ILO internal assessment on the National Programme for Eliminating Child Labor in Ghana mentioned some challenges during the

program's operation like finances delays by the United Nations Development Programme for intended activities, employee turnover, and lack of adequate staff and talent for certain skilled undertakings. The 2018 ILO report on the worst forms of child labour also suggested labour inspectorates in Ghana could not enforce laws against child labour due to deficient resources like transport, office location, and equipment.

According to UNICEF data from 2020, roughly 21 percent of children aged 5 to 17 in Ghana are engaged in child labor, with 14 percent of those children performing extremely dangerous activities. Contextually, child labour has been pronounced in the cocoa productions over the years but currently farmers are shifting some portions of their lands for rice production because of economic consideration and easy cash flows in the Bodi district. According to the Bodi district annual report in 2020, a total number of people planting rice is 2,825. With a piece of land, they can produce rice twice a year. Thus, major raining season and minor dry season as compared to cocoa. People who take part in rice production occupied the land of 5,225 acres and this has led to an increase in rice production in the Bodi districts. Children are highly utilised in the initial stage such as clearing of lands, planting of rice seedlings, bird scaring and spraying and are exposed to hazards which affects their wellbeing.

Empirically, a hand full of studies has been conducted on child labour both globally and locally (Taylor 2017; Acheampong 2011; Dwumfour, 2013 Hamenoo et.,al 2018; Ahmad et.,al 2020; Frimpong et al 2021) For instance, Crabbe (2020) looked at the legislative and institutional frameworks for regulating child labour. Acheampong (2011) also explored the factors accounting for child labour in Techiman Municipality while Dwumfour (2013)

considered the determinant of farmer's choice in labour engagement in cocoa sector. Hamenoo et al., (2018) also examined the effect of child labour on health and education in Greater Accra region of Ghana. Ahmad et al (2020) examined factors that causes child labour in agriculture in Pakistan. Lastly, Frimpong et al (2022) also examined Ghana's institutional reaction to child labour, as well as its theories and causes.

Even though Crabbe (2020) and Frimpong et al (2021) also looked at the institutions however, they concentrated much on the formal institutional responses to child labour neglecting the informal aspect of the institutional frameworks. It is against this background that this study is conducted to explore the institutional arrangement for preventing child labour in rice production in the Bodi district in the Western north Region of Ghana.

Problem statement

Taylor Crabbe, a Ghanaian law firm, described in 2020 that Ghana has an established legislative and institutional framework stemming from the 1992 constitution to protect human and labour rights. Multiple laws address child labour, including the Children's Act from 1998, the Labour Act of 2003, and the Human Trafficking Act passed in 2005. Ghana has also adopted significant International Human Rights treaties and International Labour Organization conventions like ILO 182 targeting the worst manifestations of child labour.

Many non-governmental and civil society organisations have been fighting for the rights of children and the abolition of child labour in addition to government measures under the aegis of the Non-Governmental Organisation Advocacy for Policy Formulation. These organisations have contributed to the creation, promotion, adoption, and enforcement of anti-child

labour laws on a number of fronts. The Ghanaian government and the international community have stepped forward to Through these organisations, provide advocacy and withdrawal programs to help underprivileged children, particularly CSOs. Save the Children, the International Labour Organisation, Plan Ghana and UNICEF are among the organisations that have had similar interventions based on their mission statements and goals.

The initiatives of these organisations to enhance survival skills have helped many school dropouts. The efficacy of institutional and regulatory framework remedies is seriously questioned considering the ongoing rise in child labour cases in Western North Region's rural communities and unorganized sector. Although there is an extensive legal framework and various enforcement efforts in Ghana, child labour remains prevalent - especially the worst forms - as detailed in reports, notably in agriculture (cocoa, rice, forestry and fishing industries) however data indicates it is declining overall. In West Africa, children have been observed to be active in all stages of rice production. Many youngsters who labour in rice production are unable to attend school and their work is hazardous. For example, they clear fields with machetes, they mix and apply insecticides without gloves or masks, and they scare birds, and so on.

Child labour is also a serious problem in Ghana, according to Akaribo & Broeck (2020), affecting about two million children in areas such as general agriculture, mining and fishing. Agriculture employs 112 million children out of the 160 million cases of child labour worldwide (Boysen et al. 2021). According to Carter (2017), children working in agriculture, particularly those involved in the production of staple foods (such as rice and fish), have gotten

minimal research attention. Child labour in other plantation crops, such as rice and cashew cultivation, is typically disregarded because it happens in the rural and informal sector and is not easily visible, according to ILO (2007).

In the past, cocoa farmers frequently employed children under age for their activities on their farms. The Bodi area's farmers are switching some of their land from cocoa to rice farming because it offers quick cash flows, according to an annual report on the Bodi district in 2022. According to the report, rice may be produced twice a year, both in the minor dry season and the main wet season, employing roughly 2,825 people. Rice output has increased in the Bodi districts because of the increase of 5,225 acres of land that has been added to it. Children are extremely hard-working and exposed to risks during the initial stages, which involves land clearing, weeding and scaring of birds which is harmful to their health (Agric Extension Department, 2022). Despite several effort of dealing with child labour in the district, the phenomenon keeps resurfacing. Can this be attributed to the inadequacy of the laws, inefficiency of the policies and lack of funding or the roles of the agencies are not well spelt out?

Works have been done on child labour (Asamoah et al. 2018; Owusu-Amankwah, 2015; Tackie-Otoo, 2016) but little has been done in rice production in the district. According to the district's medium term development plan 2014-2017, family and child poverty affects children causing many to drop out of school to take to the streets in order to make a livelihood. This condition leads to child exploitation, abuse and child labour. Additionally, according to the District Education Annual Progress Report 2022, 5.6 percent of boys who are old enough to start school fall into this

category. This is according to the District Education Service office.). Why are these agencies not achieving the needed result? Are they not adequately financed? or there are contextual issues impacting their activities? Many questions remain unanswered, and gaps are present in this research relating to institutional arrangements in preventing child labour in rice production in the district. It is therefore in the light of these questions that the research seeks to explore institutional arrangement for preventing child labour in rice production in Bodi District

General objective

The general objective of this research is to explore institutional arrangement for preventing child labour in rice production in Bodi District

Specific objectives

Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. Describe the regulatory mechanism put in place to fight child labour in rice production.
2. Identify the factors contributing to child labour in Bodi district.
3. Examine the effects of child labour on children's development in Rice production in Bodi district.
4. Outline the challenges confronting agencies mandated with the elimination of child labour in the Bodi districts.

Significance of Study

This study is academically significant since it examines child labour in Ghana from the perspective of institutional structures and arrangements. The urgent problem of child labour and the contribution of institutions to its solution are given more weight by this study. Every society's future is based

on the strong basis of the wellbeing of its youth, especially children, according to Beegle et al (2009)'s observation. Therefore, if a nation wants to be globally competitive and economically relevant, it is very essential that it takes very practical actions to ensure that the future of the child is adequately safeguarded and assured.

Based on empirical evidence, the information learned from this study in the district will give insight into the protection of children's right in Ghana. Lastly, the knowledge gained from this case study in Ghana will provide stakeholders with relevant concerns and viewpoints for effective monitoring and enforcement of child labour related policies and regulations in the Bodi district.

Delimitation of the Study

The study was delimited to institutional arrangement for preventing child labour with reference to formal and informal agencies in tackling child labour in the Bodi district. Only three districts in the district—Afere, Suiano A, and Benumsuo—in Ghana's western north were the subject of the study. In addition, the study focused only on agencies, family and children who are involved in hazardous work during school hours. Children who fall in the age bracket 10 to 17 were specifically chosen for the investigation.

In content, the study was delimited to institutional arrangements. Specifically, the regulatory mechanism challenges associated with the agencies responsible for eliminating child labour in Ghana also factors that affect children's development.

Limitation of the Study

Initially, the district could not be encompassed by the generalisation of the results due to the qualitative nature of the investigation procedure. For example, the Juaboso Bia district was divided to form the new district of Bodi.

It was challenging to obtain all the agencies; although I wanted to use them all, I was unable to obtain the necessary quantity. Because of this, I had no choice but to interact with five participants from the agencies. Afere a suburb of Bodi which is highly noted for rice production, some children who were caught working during school hours did not want to talk to me, they thought I was there to arrest them which made it difficult in getting the data. Nevertheless, some parents had to convince their children to talk to me because it was just for academic purpose. Additionally, there is a potential for bias in the way the researcher presents their findings. To make sure the results are presented in their purest form, though, I used extreme caution and objectivity.

Operationalisation of Terms

Regulatory Mechanism: According Basu, (2004) regulatory mechanism refers to an organisation, a committee or a body mandated by a government to promote, coordinate and ensure the implementation of a policy.

Institution: According to Milgrom, North, & Weingast (1990) and Casson et al. (2010), institutions can be categorised as formal or informal; the former typically refers to laws, written agreements and other codified artefacts. For the purpose of this study agencies focuses on governmental and non-governmental bodies and institution will be limited to policies, laws and the enforcement.

Child Labour: The International Labour Organisation in 2004 characterized child labour as any work detrimental to a child's physical or mental growth that strips them of their innocence, potential and self-worth, irrespective of the child's age. For the purposes of this research, child labour is defined as the exploitation of children through employment that deprives them of their youth, obstructs regular school attendance, and adversely affects their moral, social, mental and physical development. It is typically categorized as hazardous work.

Child Work: Child work is frequently confused with the term "child labour." It should be noted that not all work done by children under 18 is classified as child labour. The term "child work" refers to a minor's positive domestic duties and contributions to their family. According to Article 31 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), children have responsibilities towards their families and societies. Thus, children are expected to promote family cohesion and assist when needed. Children can carry out light chores and work, as long as it does not interfere with their schooling or impede their entitlement to fully access rights. The rationale for this claim is that having a child work in the home may be beneficial for developing their capacity for both social and vocational adaption.

Organisation of the Thesis

The study comprises five chapters. Chapter one provides an introduction covering the background, statement of the problem, research objectives, significance of the study, delimitations, limitations, and definitions of key terminology. In chapter two, relevant literature was reviewed, specific concepts highlighted, theoretical frameworks were offered, and relevant

empirical findings were presented. Chapter Three outlined the research methods utilized in the study including the research design, population, sample and sampling technique, research instrument, data collection process, and data analysis procedure. Chapter Four presented the analyses and discussion of the study's results. Finally, Chapter Five summarized the research methodology, key conclusions, recommendations stemming from the findings, and potential areas for further research.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

The effect of institutional arrangement on child labour is clarified by Parsons' structural functionalism theory (1954), the theory that underpins this study. The study's theoretical foundation is clearly captured in this chapter. It also discussed concept of child labour, dynamic of child labour, regulatory mechanism and presents the empirical review. It concludes with the conceptual framework.

Structural Functionalism Theory

Structural functionalism theory posits that society functions as a cohesive social system, comprising interconnected components or facets that maintain order and equilibrium. Alterations in one aspect can ripple through and affect others. The essential idea is that any social structure can be functional, but when it has negative consequences, it can also be dysfunctional to other social structures (Harper, 2011). Certain functional and dysfunctional effects serve a specific purpose that the system element recognises and manifests (manifest function). Two other unrecognised aspects are latency and having a latency function. In line with structural functionalism theory, the prevalence of child labour is intricately linked to the operation and dysfunction of social structures, including both formal and informal institutions within society, as well as the interplay among these structures within a particular social system with defined objectives (Minott, 2016). The upheaval or delay to the balance of social structures is the cause of the ongoing occurrence of child labour in society. In this context, function is

perceived as an outcome arising from alterations in structure and/or social institutions, which can be interpreted as consequences of the adaptation and adjustment of the social system. Conversely, the notion of dysfunction, along with the social structures and institutions that uphold prevailing social norms, can exert detrimental effects on the social system (Joseph, 2023). Proponents of this theory assert that social roles, institutional arrangements (social order), social processes, group organisation, and social control serve as focal points for sociological inquiry, rooted in the social fact paradigm (Merton, 1975). According to structural functionalism theory, the social phenomenon of child labour represents an entrenched social reality (institutionalised) intricately linked to surrounding social structures and institutions (Kingsbury & Scanzoni, 1993). The evolution of child labour is shaped by the transformation of the family institution's role from primarily a caretaking entity to an economic one. Consequently, the child assumes the role of a social structure, functioning as the family's provider to fulfil its economic requirements.

Child labour persists as a consequence of socially constructed norms ingrained within society. Its existence serves functional purposes for entrepreneurs, who benefit from the cost savings associated with employing underage children. While working may help children fulfil basic needs such as pocket money, clothing, and entertainment expenses, it also carries dysfunctional aspects. Engaging in labour deprives children of valuable time for learning, playing, and interacting with family members (Soepeno & Suyadi, 2017). The exploitation of children at work can significantly harm their physical and emotional well-being. The dual nature of the effects experienced by child labourers serves a specific purpose and is acknowledged

by the social system, representing the manifest function. Conversely, latency functions encompass both favourable and unfavourable effects that the social structure does not formally acknowledge, like the presence of child labourers. The structural functionalism theory proved pertinent to this study as it enabled researchers to dissect the component aspects of the institutional frameworks governing child labour and assess their functionality in addressing child labour within agricultural activities.

Regulatory Mechanism in Managing Child Labour

The Ghanaian government has demonstrated and continues to show unwavering dedication in combating child labour, particularly its most egregious forms. The construction of a strong policy framework and the approval and ratification of several municipal, national, regional, and international legislative instruments serve as proof of this dedication. In addition to enshrining pertinent measures inside the 1992 constitution, the Ghanaian government has developed multiple national action plans aimed at eliminating the most severe types of child labour.

The current national plan of action, referred to as "Phase 2, NPA2," is geared towards eliminating the most severe forms of child labour from 2017 to 2021, aligning with the aim of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8.7. In 2010, the Cabinet approved the first National Plan of Action (NPA 1) for eradicating the worst forms of child labour spanning from 2009 to 2015. The aim of this initiative was intended to create strong institutional and social regulations as well as provide the foundation for the eventual outlawing and prevention of all other forms of child labour, with the specific objective of reducing the severe types of child labour to the bare minimum.

The implementation of NPA1 marked a significant milestone by establishing a comprehensive framework that integrated various institutional, legal, and policy components aimed at improving children's welfare. The government's steadfast dedication to eradicating the most severe forms of child labour is further underscored by the introduction of the second National Plan of Action (NPA2). Building upon the progress achieved under NPA1, NPA2 seeks to enhance the connections between diverse child development policies and facilitate the continuous enforcement of relevant laws. Moreover, NPA2 endeavours to enhance coordination among partners' initiatives and foster robust collaboration among stakeholders in the future. NPA2 is a crucial platform for achieving the goals stated in the Child and Family Welfare Policy, particularly by heightening public awareness regarding the issue of child labour and its detrimental, long-lasting impacts on both economic development and social cohesion. By fostering greater awareness, NPA2 facilitates the translation of this knowledge into tangible actions aimed at combating child labour (UNICEF, n.d.).

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child have played pivotal roles in shaping international legislation and strategies aimed at eradicating child labour. The ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) was established in 1992 with the overarching goal of progressively eliminating child labour. This objective was to be achieved by bolstering nations' capacity to address the issue and fostering a global movement to combat it. Currently operational in 88 countries, IPEC allocated over US\$61 million annually to technical cooperation projects in 2008 alone, making it both the largest

program within the ILO and the world's largest of its kind. The IPEC's endeavours to eradicate child labour are integral to the ILO's broader agenda for promoting decent work.

Child labour hinders children from acquiring the skills and education necessary for a brighter future (Von Braun, 1995). Furthermore, every four years, the ILO convenes the Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour. The most recent conference was held from May 15–20, 2022, in Durban, South Africa. Furthermore, state parties are cautioned against child labour by Article 32 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which upholds children's right to be protected from economic exploitation and from working in any capacity that could endanger their education or endanger their general development or well-being.

In addition to national and international regulatory frameworks, numerous non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have actively implemented policies and programs outlined in both national and international legislation at regional and local levels. One such example is Child Rights International, which has collaborated with various partners over the years to execute significant projects across Ghana. Operating in seven different regions of the country, this group provides ongoing support to children, aiming to amplify their voices and contributions within society while restoring their confidence in a brighter and more promising future (Child Rights Worldwide, n.d.).

Concept of Child Labour

The term "child labour" has been subject to various interpretations, encompassing a broad spectrum of challenging issues that require detailed explanation and clarity for proper understanding. Although the two ideas,

child labour and child work are commonly mixed up, they are not the same thing. It is necessary to critically assess the underlying demarcations in order to better understand the two ideas. According to Tunesvik (2000), the term "child labour" is used to characterise the real activities that children engage in, whereas the term "child work" simply refers to the phenomenon as a whole. However, this is insufficient. Amma et al., (2000) made an effort to do a more thorough investigation of child labour. They use the term "child work" to describe the tasks and responsibilities that children carry out for their parents. Examples of activities often associated with child labour include cooking, dishwashing, weeding, planting, harvesting crops, fetching water and firewood, tending to animals, and babysitting. In this context, child work is only used for socialisation-promoting tasks and activities. Child work differs from child labour because it is accepted and considered an essential part of raising children.

The ILO Convention defines child labour as the exploitation of children, wherein they are compelled to assume adult roles, often working extensive hours for minimal wages in environments detrimental to their health and overall development. This exploitation may involve separation from their families and the denial of opportunities for meaningful education and training, essential for securing a better future. ILO/IPEC (2001) makes a clear distinction between child labour and child work in a report titled "Focusing on the Worst Forms of Child Labour" in the Ghanaian context. On the one hand, "work done to the child's injury and endangerment, cognitively, physically, socially, and morally" is how child labour is defined. Child labour is characterised by the deprivation of a child's fundamental right to education

and other opportunities for personal development. This often entails the separation of children from their families and exposure to substandard working conditions, such as prolonged working hours, hazardous work environments, and tasks that are physically demanding regardless of the child's age or gender.

Contrarily, child work is defined as children's involvement in light tasks, such as assisting parents with household chores or engaging in short-duration work after school or during breaks. In this situation, kids' deeds don't always rob them of their basic rights. Child work helps youngsters develop self-confidence and contribute to the general well-being of their family and themselves. It is challenging to draw a distinction between these two ideas and the point at which acceptable employment turns into abhorrent labour. The definition of child labour provided highlights the grave threat posed to the safety and well-being of numerous children in Asia, Africa, and South America due to hazardous working conditions. This assertion is supported by research conducted by Tunesvik in 2000, which revealed that 61 percent of child labourers are located in Asia, with 32 percent in Africa and 7 percent in Latin America.

Dynamics of Child Labour

Child labour permeates various agricultural enterprises, spanning from corporate-owned farms, plantations, and agro-industrial complexes to small, medium, and large-scale family farms (IPEC, 2006). Within the agricultural sector, child labour manifests in diverse forms, including involvement in family farming activities, employment on commercial farms and plantations, labour supplied to commercial agricultural operations, bonded child labour,

and instances of forced labour, slavery, and human trafficking. Despite the majority of work in rural areas, there are still some urban kid farm workers. Unpaid family members account for 68 percent of child labourers, with paid employment accounting for 23 percent and self-employment accounting for 8 percent (Carter,2017). The proportion of child labourers doing unpaid labour is higher in agriculture.

Ghana divides children's labour primarily into three sectors: industry, services and agriculture. The agriculture industry in Ghana has the greatest rate of working children, where 79.2 percent of those between the ages of 5 and 14 are employed (Pugmire, 2022). The agricultural industry includes the production of cocoa, palm oil, fishing and cattle husbandry. Because it exposes kids to toxic settings, chemicals and dangerous tools, agricultural employment is sometimes labelled as hazardous work. With 15.8 percent of working children, the services sector has the second-highest rate. This industry covers domestic labour, begging on the street, hauling large loads and working in pubs or restaurants. Services-related activities are under the category of hazardous labour because they may endanger children's physical health and expose them to inappropriate behaviour. Five percent of Ghana's working children are employed in the industrial sector.

Children employed in this sector engage in manufacturing, construction, quarries and small-scale mining, where they are once more exposed to potentially harmful instruments and circumstances. As minors are under the legal age restriction in Ghana, which is 18, the labour they do in all three areas are dangerous. After they turn 18, the law stops classifying children's labour in these industries as harmful (Mallo, 2012).

Forms/Types of Childs Labour in Ghana

There are many types of jobs that children do, some of which include risks or dangers. The majority of these kids are prone to harm and discomfort, especially when they're exposed to health risks (Levison and Murray, 2005).

The ILO (2012) elucidates that a significant portion of children engage in hazardous occupations, including but not limited to farming, mining, construction, manufacturing, fishing, and bonded labour situations. Environmental and industrial factors can have an impact on how youngsters develop their human capital. Children are often seen working in a variety of occupations, including manufacturing, agriculture, household work and sex work, as well as engaging in illicit activities such as being migrant workers, prostitution, street vending, among others.

A diverse array of agricultural operations, spanning from small, medium, and large-scale family farms to corporate-owned farms, plantations, and agro-industrial complexes, rely on child labour (IPEC, 2006). Child labour within agriculture manifests in various forms, including involvement in family farm activities, employment on commercial farms and plantations, labour supplied to commercial agricultural operations, bonded child labour, forced labour, slavery, and human trafficking. While the majority of child labourers are situated in rural regions, there are also instances of agricultural child labour occurring in urban areas. Unpaid family members account for 68 percent of child labourers, with paid employment accounting for 23 percent and self-employment accounting for 8 percent (Le, 2014). The proportion of unpaid family members is higher in agriculture (Acheampong, 2011).

The bulk of child labour occurs within family-based agricultural settings, as highlighted by Thévenon and Edmonds (2019). This includes participation in both subsistence agriculture and commercial agriculture that contributes to local and regional food systems, as noted by Johns and Sthapit (2004). Many kids work regularly or even full-time on their parents' or their relatives' farms (FAO, 2015). Some children toil in remote and isolated environments, such as on fishing vessels, plantations, in mountainous regions, or while herding cattle. Additionally, certain farming families reside in villages nestled within farmland (ILO, 2007; FAO, 2015). This contrasts with forced child labour commonly observed in large-scale industries or expansive commercial plantations. Le (2014), finds that gathering precise data on child labour is challenging for isolated family farms since employment might occur at various times and vary by season. For a comprehensive examination of children and young people engaged in two forms of smallholder agriculture, livestock and cultivation (Dachille et al, .2015).

Family farms can encompass large-scale, commercially oriented operations with multiple full-time employees, contrary to the widespread misconception that they are solely small-scale, subsistence-based enterprises or holdings (ILO, 2007). The ILO observes that as agriculture becomes more commercialised and industrialised, the traditional line between "commercial agriculture" and "family farm" is gradually blurring (IPEC, 2006).

Worst Form of Child Labour

As O'Donnell et al. (2002) highlighted, the impacts of child labor vary by country, influenced by factors such as work conditions and the age and gender of the children. Amon et al. (2012) noted child workers in Sub-Saharan

Africa and Southeast Asia are particularly vulnerable to the most egregious forms like debt bondage, sex trafficking, prostitution, physically strenuous domestic work, and dangerous industrial jobs. Thus, over 90 percent of children in hazardous occupations are exposed to perilous equipment and materials.

Child labour encompasses various forms, including slavery, child trafficking, forced labour, and debt bondage. These disparities arise from the types of activities children are engaged in and their environments. The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention of 1999 (No. 182) categorises these practices into three main groups: the use of children as bondservants to settle financial debts, forced labour, which involves coercively recruiting children for use in armed conflict. The strenuous work undertaken by child labourers in conditions akin to slavery significantly affects their both mental and physical growth.

The use of children for immoral purposes, like prostitution or pornographic acts, falls under the next category of the worst types of child labour. The moral growth of the children engaged is negatively impacted by these actions. The third group of the worst types of child labour includes using kids for illicit purposes like drug trafficking, which is bad in and of itself because of the way these things are run and how it affects the morality and safety of the kids involved. Most of the worst types of child labour activities are performed by kids who originate from extremely low socioeconomic situations. As a result, the international community is now more conscious of the need to eradicate the worst forms of child labour (Okyere et al., 2021).

Factors that Contribute to Child Labour

The institutional and governmental levels have adequately investigated the variables related to or contributing to the prevalence and ongoing continuation of child labour in both developed and developing nations.

According to Mitra and Murayama (2009), household variables including family size, income, and fertility as well as other economic and demographic factors like education level, income levels, poverty, underemployment, and unemployment, among others, have been linked to the underlying factors that lead to child labour. In certain instances, the microeconomic conditions within households create a necessity for child labour. Children are compelled to work due to the socioeconomic circumstances of their households. For example, the research conducted by Amma et al. (2000) clearly illustrates how the economic structure of households in rural and semi-urban areas in Africa, particularly among pastoralist communities, dictates the need for children to engage in labour. Rather than sending their children to school, pastoralists often require them to assist in the care of their animals. Most of the students must drop out of elementary school to accompany their parents on their search for pastures for their animals. Due to the internal division of labour within households, children also experience the negative effects of child labour (Tungesvik, 2000).

Indeed, some children work outside the home alongside their parents, while others contribute to household chores to allow their parents or other family members to attend their jobs. Regarding the factors that determine the availability of child labour at the home level, there are several interpretations. According to the ILO/IPEC Ghana survey (2001), it is getting harder for

parents to meet their kids' basic requirements, especially those related to school. People are compelled by economic difficulties to care for their immediate family solely, breaking with traditional traditions and beliefs that bonded the extended family and clan members together.

Despite the apparent strides in economic growth, localised socio-economic vulnerabilities and widening disparities stand as primary catalysts for child labour in Ghana. In the rural informal sector, child labour is common, especially unpaid employment in family businesses. The Rural Savanna zone, which includes the three northern districts, has the greatest rates of child labour 34 percent and poverty 55 percent (Asante & Amuakwa 2014). The 2015 Ghana MDG report demonstrates that while urban poverty is improving and the incidence of poverty is falling, little progress has been made in eradicating rural poverty, leading to an increase in the poverty gap. The level of poverty in rural regions is rising, and the rural poor are getting poorer. Child labour is common in rural areas, according to the Child Labour Report from the Ghana Living Standards Survey Round 6. Economic migration from rural to urban areas, some kids move to the metropolis as a result of peer pressure or media reports about such migration. Migration of children is another effect of parents' failure to care for them. Additionally, some parents relocate from the north to the south in search of employment so they may see their spouses and kids who live in rural areas (Hsu, 2000).

Effects of Child Labour on Children

Child labour always has a detrimental impact on children (Burrone & Giannelli, 2020). Children who are found to be working as children are known to be vulnerable to dangerous and negative consequences. Children's reactions

to child labour can generally be divided into social, health, educational, and physical reactions. When it comes to educational impacts, child labour has a big impact on kids' education. Children who work in the production of cocoa miss school and frequently have dangerous jobs assigned to them, according to ILO (2007). According to empirical research, child labour exerts various adverse effects on children, often resulting in missed developmental opportunities. The study "Child Labour in Ghana: Implications for Children's Education and Health" by Hamenoo et al. (2018) found that children engaged in activities such as roadside vending performed poorly in school. According to their research, kids who sell frequently arrive at school exhausted and with little time to learn.

Children's reactions to child labour have been thoroughly studied. According to a study by Hamenoo, Dwomoh, and Dako-Gyeke (2018), child labour invariably has an impact on children's health and education. These authors believed that child labour had a variety of effects on kids. They believed that kids who were found to be working as children were doing it at the risk of their development because they might lose their right to an education. On a similar note, these kids, unlike their adult counterparts, had weaker bodies and were more prone to health problems than average. Their research revealed that kids were frequently exposed to risky and hazardous behaviours. Workplace risks might affect children who are employed as children.

Abugre (2017) conducted study in Ghana utilising data from the Ghana Living Standard Survey round six (6) using a profit regression model and found that children are more vulnerable to health problems. These health

issues include burns, breathing difficulties, eye and skin issues, fever, snake and insect bites, and in the worst-case circumstances, death. Similar to this, key health and safety risks for children working as youngsters include poisoning, skin cancer and musculoskeletal problems from violent, repeated motions (ILO, 2007).

According to the ILO's work in Ethiopia, children who were engaged in child labour were vulnerable to social, economic and physical harm that frequently persisted to affect them their entire lives. Sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional neglect, lack of education and physical neglect, such as having insufficient access to food, clothing, shelter, and medical care, were among the harms or injuries that were noted.

Ibrahim, Abdalla, Jafer, Abdelgadir, and de Vries (2018) carried out a thorough literature analysis on the impact of child labour on underprivileged and middle-class children's health. In this study, it was discovered that child labour was linked to a number of negative health outcomes on children. They discovered that children who worked as child labourers had a higher likelihood of developing health problems such malnourishment, stunted growth, a greater susceptibility to behavioural and mental illnesses, system-specific and viral diseases, and diminished coping skills.

Empirical Review

This section of the literature review aimed to empirically review the research conducted by other scholars that was pertinent to this study. The objective was to delineate both similarities and, more significantly, differences between the present research and earlier studies. This review typically scrutinised the objectives of prior studies, the methodologies utilised, their

findings, recommendations, and conclusions. By analysing these aspects, I believe researchers can contextualise their own study within the existing literature and pinpoint any gaps or areas warranting further investigation.

Ahmad, Huifang, Ahktar, Maqsood, and Imran (2020) conducted a study using a cross-sectional design and a sample size of 180 children to investigate child labour in the agriculture sector of rural areas in central Punjab, Pakistan. Their findings revealed that many children are compelled to work in the agriculture industry due to poor economic conditions. The data indicated that 47.2 percent of respondents who worked with children were between the ages of 11 and 15 years old. Moreover, over 53.3 percent of individuals were involved in tasks such as weeding, planting, applying fertiliser, irrigating, and managing water on the land. Despite government efforts to improve the lives of rural children, the prevalence of child labour continued to rise. The problem was shown to be caused by a number of factors including generational poverty, a high rate of parental illiteracy, unemployment, big family sizes, feudalism and the lax enforcement of current child labour laws.

Similarly, the International Labour Organisation (2020) underlined that poverty and other associated issues have a significant impact on the problem in a statement about the origins and consequences of child labour in Ethiopia. According to the 2001 Ethiopian survey, which ILO cites, 90 percent of children who were found to be working either did so to improve or supplement the family's income, showing that chronic poverty in Ethiopia is caused by issues like population pressure, land degradation, unemployment and underemployment. Further research revealed that Ethiopia's cultural norms

also contributed to the incidence of child labour. Additional reasons that were noted include family disintegration as a result of divorce, educational issues, inadequate education, and inability to sustain schooling.

In a qualitative study conducted from the Hamenoo camp, Dwomoh and Dako-Gyeke (2018) examined the effects of child labour in Ghana on children's health and education in Pokuase in the Greater Accra Region. The study used in-depth interviews with a sample of 25 participants, purposive sampling and thematic analysis to examine the data, and it discovered that poverty is a key source of or impact on child labour. The offered narratives suggested that children who worked as children did so to fulfil their necessities at home, including food and education, given the situation where their parents or guardians were unable to do so. The findings also demonstrated that one of the main causes of child labour was parental absence owing to divorce, death, or separation, as well as inadequate enforcement of child labour and education laws. According to Hamenoo et al., (2018) parental mortality frequently marked a sea change in the life of a kid since it could result in insufficient care from other family members, forcing the children to support themselves and their immediate relatives.

Ahmed (2023) asserts that children engage in labour out of necessity for their own survival as well as that of their families. Furthermore, Ahmed suggests that unscrupulous individuals often exploit the vulnerabilities of children in such circumstances. The International Labour Organisation is aware of a few contributing variables that make child labour necessary and pervasive. Weaknesses in national educational systems, poverty, public views and regional cultures and traditions are some of these predictions or

influencers. In a similar vein, Adiza (2020) Confirmed that institutional behaviours, beliefs, and perceptions all contribute to child labour. According to the study, other important elements are migration, gender roles in the family, involvement and decision-making, access to and control over assets and sources of income, and migration.

The findings of a different study by Adebona and Johnson (2015) on the scoping study report and literature analysis on child labour made it abundantly evident that poverty is a major factor that forces child labour. They also found cultural elements that contribute to the prevalence of the issue, such as financial debt, family business succession and ingrained practices. In a study on child labour and its contributing factors: data from Iran's less developed regions of utilising data from the Iranian statistical centre and a logistic regression, Rad, Gholampoor and Jaafaripooyan (2015) found the opposite of what Adebona and Johnson found. The article shows that core predictors of child labour included factors such as working mother, fertility rate, child's age being fourteen or older, living in a rural area and mother's educational level. They came to the conclusion that rurality could affect a family's inclination to utilise children for labour, such as on farms and could be a contributing factor in the high rate of child labour in less developed nations.

Addai-Acheampong (2011) carried out research aimed at examining child labour among public Junior High School students in Techiman Municipality located in Ghana's Brong Ahafo Region. The study had 60 participants chosen through purposeful and simple random sampling methods. Data gathering mainly used questionnaires and interviews, with analysis of the

data performed utilizing Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software.

The research revealed that a significant proportion of pupils were involved in hawking within the municipality, with poverty identified as the leading cause of child labour in the region. The prevalence of child labour among public Junior High School pupils was widespread, resulting in substantial repercussions on their academic performance. Nonetheless, the majority of respondents expressed confidence in the feasibility of addressing the issue of child labour. It concludes by recommending government and civil society to extend support to parents through various means, including loans, work opportunities, and other sorts of financial support.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework that follows illustrates key ideas and their interrelationships. The way the arrows flow sideways in the linear direction and end at the result in this conceptual illustration in Figure 1 demonstrates the feedback loop (change in child labour). According to Merton (1975), the fundamental tenet of any social structure is that, when it has negative impacts on other social structures, it can both be useful and dys-functional to those other social structures. Through the prism of structural functionalism theory, the phenomenon of child labour can be understood by looking at the institutional arrangements, both formal and informal structures, such as the family, traditional and child labourers themselves and how these structures interact within a specific social system of purpose.

The theory predicts that child labour will significantly alter and depending on how quickly it receives support, this transformation could be

either positive or harmful. The functional and dysfunctional outcomes of the interactions between the different social systems will have a substantial impact on child labour (formal and informal). Therefore, it is likely that a successful outcome will lead to a decrease in or outright eradication of child labour in the study area. A dysfunctional outcome, on the other hand, will result in a negative alteration in the phenomenon.

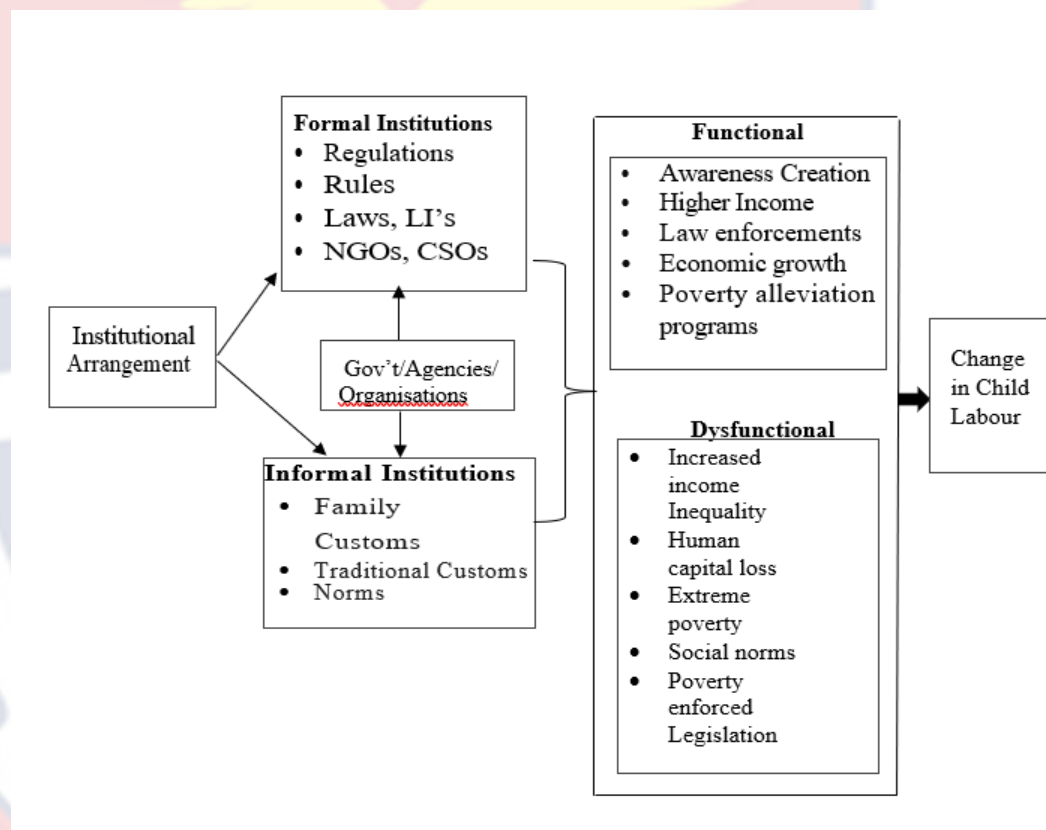


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework for Child Labour in Rice Production in Bodi District

Source: Author's Construct (2023) based on existing literature.

The current study conceptualises the study of child labour in rice production as a form of governance where interested party demands and objectives work together or are integrated to form a set of actions and methods. The framework is an interplay of institutional arrangements (formal and informal institutions), activities (which may be functional or dysfunctional) and outcome (change in child labour).

Institutional Arrangements

An institution refers to a social structure consisting of laws, policies, enforcement mechanisms, pacts, and processes. In contrast, an institutional arrangement entails the assignment, allocation, or division of authority over development, managerial decision-making, and implementation oversight. In simple terms, institutional arrangements include organizations, their human capital, finances, infrastructure, leadership efficacy as well as the communication links connecting these bodies. The concept of institutional arrangements is conceptualised to include formal and informal institutions, which play a direct or indirect role in child labour issues viewed along three strands; regulations, investments and coordination.

Regulation dimension – this dimension defines existing legislations, policies, programmes and laws on labour, child labour and the enforcement of these regulations. It also focuses on identifying responsible organisations or agencies mandated with the formulation and enforcement of regulations. Investments and resources – to attain the goal of regulations, education and sensitisation through programmes requires both material and monetary resources. The amount of money allocated to these initiatives determines how effective the programs and regulatory tools are. Coordination: Since regulation and investments are likely to include a wide range of people and organisations, both directly and indirectly, it is necessary to set up procedures to ensure that the many social actors in charge of these duties are heading in the same direction.

To this study, agencies focus on governmental bodies, non-governmental organisation and civil society organisation whereas institution

was be treated as laws, policies and cultural norms in order to establish the connections between the effect of this agencies on child labour issues grounded in structural functionalism. Formal agencies defined primarily focus on government agencies, policies, laws as well as their enforcements. Such agencies include Ministries, municipal, and district assemblies, District Assemblies as well as Non-governmental and Civil Society Organisations, which play an important role in resolving child labour.

Informal institutions defined in the context of this work focuses on family and culture or traditional norms as the study seeks to draw the linkages and impacts of these institutions in child labour issues. According to the structural functionalism hypothesis holds that society is an integrated system of components that work together harmoniously and in balance. Modifications made to one component of the system may subsequently have an effect on other components, illustrating the interdependence and connectivity of societal elements.

As expressed in the framework, the functional and dysfunctional outcomes resulting from the interaction between the various social structures (formal and informal) will result in a significant change in child labour where change can be negative or positive depending on the rate of its supports. Thus, it is assumed that a functional outcome will lead to a positive change in child labour reducing the phenomena and largely eliminating the phenomena in the study area. Conversely, a dysfunctional outcome will result in a negative change in the phenomenon.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The numerous methods, plans and algorithms utilised in research which must be organised, in a factual and value-free form are referred to as research methodology. According to Peffers, Tuunanen, Rothenberger and Chatterjee (2007), these techniques aid researchers in data collection and issue solving by providing explanations based on facts, measurements and observations gathered rather than just reasoning. The research philosophies serve as the foundation for a research methodology and direct the study process using either the proposed inductive or deductive study methodologies (Saunders, Lewis & Thornhil, 2009). The overall methodology includes the research paradigm, research philosophy, study population sampling technique, study area and its scope, data gathering strategies, data analysis, ethical issues and data processing and analysis.

Research Paradigm

A researcher's philosophy reflects how they perceive a real-world occurrence (Saunders, Lewis & Thornhill, 2009; Yin, 2009 as cited in Ihuah & Eaton, 2014). It provides the foundational tenets of perspectives, theoretical rationales, and self-awareness - considered means of comprehending factual happenings (Spirkin, 1983 as cited in Moon & Blackman, 2014). This assists the researcher in grasping the framework and structure of the study.

As the first and most crucial stage in choosing additional research options and criteria, a research philosophy attempts to align with a particular research perspective in order to understand the phenomenon (Walliman,

2015). Given that the researcher's goal is to add to the corpus of existing information, collecting scientific knowledge is done methodically. This is informed by ontology (knowing what exists in the world of humans) and epistemology (the capacity to learn) (understanding how to create knowledge).

These philosophical tenets guide the selection of approaches that validate the researcher's commitment to a specific conception of reality and how to understand it, consequently steering the study's aims, structure, methods, and instruments for data analysis and interpretation (Moon & Blackman, 2014). As Mohaja (2018) stated, a researcher's perspectives, background, and personal experiences mold their philosophical lens.

The basic concept of this work is Interpretivism. To analyse the phenomena, Interpretivism uses a qualitative approach and inductive methodology. In order to increase understanding, interpretivism focuses on identifying the complexity of social phenomena. Understanding and explaining events, social structure and experiences, as well as the beliefs people have about these occurrences, is the major goal of interpretivism (Barbour, 2013). As social reality was founded on people's perceptions as well as the goals and values of the researcher, interpretivists contend that it is both subjective and precise. This study's goal is to analyse the institutional setup for guarding against child labour in rice production in the Bodi district.

Research Approach

The ongoing discussion regarding study design exemplifies the criticality of a sound research blueprint for social inquiry. Since qualitative and quantitative research models derive from conflicting ontological and epistemological premises that impede reconciliation, distinct paradigms are

necessitated (Brannen, 1992). The differences can be seen in the questions asked, the methods and tools utilised to collect the data, as well as how broadly the goals and scope are described. Despite the various ontological and epistemological perspectives, scholars justify their research frameworks based on fundamental differences in ontology, epistemology, and theory.

Nevertheless, mixed method design is becoming a topic of discussion (Sarantakos, 1998). A comprehensive comprehension of the subjects under study is made possible by the qualitative technique (Engel & Schutt, 2014). Because of its time-consuming nature, limited sample size, inability to draw general conclusions, potential for gathering irrelevant data and objectivity problems, qualitative research is frequently criticised ((Engel & Schutt, 2014). The assertion that qualitative research lacks the generalisability of quantitative research, however, is true only if generalisability is restricted to statistical inference, which is the process of extrapolating research sample results to the entire population (Brannen,1992).

A variety of variables affect the qualitative research design that is chosen. Beginning with the premise that reality is socially constructed, qualitative research is more capable of revealing such social constructs than quantitative approaches. Child labour is a matter of opinion. The qualitative method is therefore expected to shed light on the institutional setup for stopping child labour in the rice production in the Bodi areas. The second benefit of qualitative research design is that it makes it easier to understand complex requirements, processes and cultures across a range of social policy and personal activities. According to the literature reviewed, qualitative

research also helps policymakers reflect on their decisions by examining people's perspectives, actions, and motives (Ritchie & Spencer, 1994).

An examination of scholarly literature reveals that qualitative research offers valuable insights into assessing the micro-level impacts and both the anticipated and unanticipated outcomes of various social policy measures and non-governmental initiatives selected (Bemelmans et al., 2017)

Study Design

Exploratory research was the specific study design used for this investigation. Exploratory research, according to Sarantakos (1998), tries to further knowledge about a problem, typically when there is insufficient information on the research topic. The exploratory design is used in this study to collect data on the prevention of child labour in the Bodi district. It is adaptable and enables a thorough evaluation of perception (Saif, Choma, Salomone & Chu 2009). It offers the chance to thoroughly examine the problem of child labour. Additionally, it aids in creating connections between current laws protecting children's interests and aids in interactively examining participants' values and worldviews.

This study's methodology was based on qualitative research. A qualitative methodological approach, according to Sarantakos (1998), is centred on non-quantitative data gathering and analysis and is based on several theoretical concepts like phenomenology, hermeneutics and social interactionism. Antwi and Hamza (2015) mentions that, the qualitative research approach is used to examine social interactions and describes reality as viewed by the respondents.

Study Area

Bodi District is one of the 22 districts in Western Region of Ghana. By means of the Legislative Instrument (LI) 2020, it was formed in 2012 from the formerly Sefwi Juaboso District. The district's administrative centre is Sefwi Bodi. Sefwi Wiawso District to the west, Juaboso District to the north, and Sefwi Akontombra to the south are its neighbour's. A total of 662.404 square kilometres of land makes up the district. The figure (2) below shows the map of the study area and its surrounding communities.

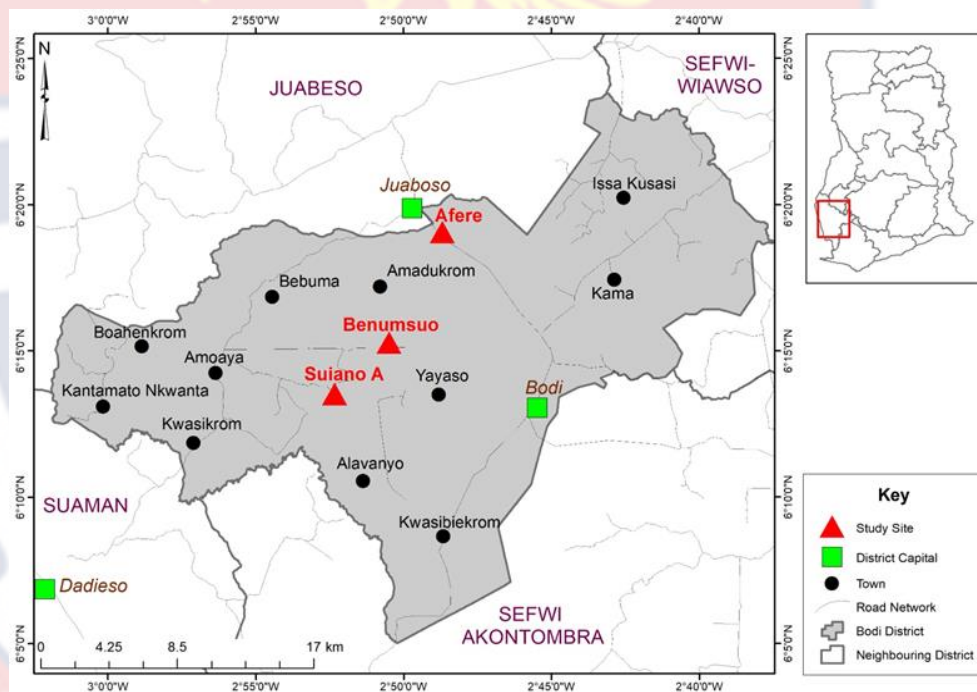


Figure 2: Map of the Study Area

Source: Department of Geography and Regional Planning, (2023)

Sixty-five thousand, seven hundred and forty-eight people which represent 7.5 percent of the total population of the western region live in the Bodi district. 51.2 percent of the population are men and 48.8 percent are women. Rural residents made up 86.7 percent of the population in 2010 while urban residents made up (13.3%). According to PHC estimates, this will be (65.8%) in rural regions and (34.2%) in urban areas in 2021. The national

census from 2010 shows that Bodi has a young population. Male and female reliance ratios are 82.5 and 83.7, respectively, while the district's overall dependency ratio is 83.1.

There are 10,773 total households in the district, with 52,315 people living in them. About 5 people live in each household on average in the district. With 45.5 percent of the whole household structure, children make up the majority. In terms of education, 67.5 percent of people aged 11 and over are literate, while 32.5 percent are not. Male literacy rates are higher (75.8%) than female literacy rates (58.3%). Six out of ten people (57.2) stated that they could read and write in both Ghanaian and English language.

The district's main economic activity is agriculture. 90.3 percent of the district's households are involved in agriculture. Nine out of ten households (90.3%) in rural areas are agricultural households, compared to fewer homes in urban areas that are involved in agriculture. The district as a whole has more than 90 percent of its households engaged in crop cultivation. The area is dominated by the growing of rice and cocoa. In terms of economic activity, 84.2 percent of people over the age of 15 are employed, compared to 15.8 percent who are not. 99.0 percent of those who are economically active are employed, whereas 1 percent are jobless. More people who are economically inactive are students (56.4%), people who take care of their own homes (23.1%), and people who are disabled or too ill to work (6.3%). (GSS, 2014).

Study Population

According to Nackaerts, Coppin, Muys and Hermy (2000), a study population is the collection of factors from which a sample is drawn. The study's target group includes social welfare workers, NGO, Assembly man and

traditional authority representatives, parents, and kids who are observed working during school hours. Work that interferes with a child's education by keeping them from attending, forcing them to leave early, or requiring them to balance long and extremely taxing work hours with attending school is known as child labour.

Sampling Procedure

The purposive sampling method was utilized to choose three communities where rice cultivation is widespread. The three communities were Suiano A, which had 50 hectares set aside for rice growing, Benumsuo, which had 46 hectares, and Afere, which had 120 hectares set aside for cultivation. There are 2,081 people engaging in the rice farming in the district. The district's diminishing cocoa yield was a result of the massive rice cultivation. Rice farmers are assisted in their fieldwork by agriculture extension agents, whose responsibility it is to introduce them to cutting-edge technologies for rice production. This increases crop yield per hectare.

In the District, 66 percent of farmers work in the rice sector. Rice is an essential crop for the district and has greatly improved both the employment situation and degree of food security in the Region. (Department of Agriculture 2022 Annual Report, Bodi District Assembly.) The purposive sampling method entails the researcher selecting the subjects from whom the required data will be acquired at their discretion (Amin, Snow & Kokwaro 2005). The participants were carefully selected (see Table 1) to ensure that the information gathered in the field was relevant.

Table 1: Number of Communities Selected for the study

Selected Communities	Number of Children Sampled	Number of Parents
Afere	6	5
Benumsuo	4	3
Suiano A	5	2
Total	15	10

Source: Field Data (2023)

Table 2 presents the formal agencies mandated with the elimination of child labour in the district which were purposively selected as far the study is concerned. In addition, the Assembly man for the area was interviewed

Table 2: Number of agencies selected for the interview

Name of agencies	Number of participants
NCCE	1
CHRAJ	1
SOCIAL WELFARE	1
NGO (World vision)	1
Community child protection group	1
Traditional authorities	1
Total	6

Source: Field Data (2023)

Sample Size and Justification

From the onset of data collection, the overall sample size was unknown. However, the sample size was determined by the researcher using the notion of saturation. The study employed a non-probability sampling strategy called purposive sampling, which was chosen based on the characteristics of the population. According to Sarantakos (1998), purposeful sampling allows the researcher to select participants who, in light of their evaluation and judgment, are considered pertinent to the study. Since key informants are experts and have extensive understanding of the issue. Children

who were working during school hours were chosen using convenient sampling approach. With this method, the researcher can look for participants who fit a certain criterion for a study (Neuman, 2011). In the case of this study, children were selected based where rice production and related activities were occurs most in the district. To identify participant, the researcher visited these areas and engaged anyone child encountered o the field working.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Parents involved in rice cultivation, key informants and children were the three groups of respondents in the study. No other respondents were contacted besides those in these groups. Kids aged 10 to 15, parents, and important informants (agencies). Agencies who are charge of the implementation and regulation of child labour issues in the Bodi districts, thus CHRAJ, NCCE, Social welfare department, NGOs and community groups, Assembly man, Traditional authority who seeks the welfare of children in the district were selected for the study. Any landmarks outside the Bodi district were not taken into consideration because the study was only conducted there.

Data Collection Instruments

Interview guides and observation check lists were used to collect data. Key informants received the interview guide, and observation checklists were used for kids who were working during school hours. In order to examine participants' perspectives and go further into the phenomenon, the instruments were semi-structured. The objectives of the study and the themes that emerged from them formed the basis for designing the data collection instruments.

Validity and Reliability of Instrument

No matter how sophisticated the methodologies used in qualitative research may appear to be, researching and trying to write about dependability and validity has proven to be challenging. Many scientists think that qualitative research is subjective and vulnerable to the biases and emotions of the researcher. Trustworthiness, according to Padgett (1998), is the result of "rigorous scholarship," which includes the use of predetermined methodologies. It does not develop naturally. In the same way that the research instrument was forwarded to the supervisor for review and approval to ensure validity, the instruments were constructed with reliability in mind, drawing from the body of existing literature and the study's overarching objectives.

Trustworthiness

The credibility of the study is key to ensuring the quality of qualitative research (Korstjens & Moser, 2018). According to Korstjens and Moser (2018), credibility, transferability, dependability and conformability are all components of trustworthiness. Credibility is measured using techniques like triangulation and is concerned with the element of truth-value. This is achieved by allowing two or more researchers to independently design codes. Another method of achieving triangulation requires the coders to share their codebooks and choose common codes and topics.

A lengthy description has to do with transferability. This entails not just describing the feelings and actions of study participants, but also providing a thorough account of the environment in which the study was carried out. This guarantees that the experiences and actions have external

meaning (Korstjens & Moser, 2018). By explaining the study environment, offering the sample size and sampling method employed and describing the socio-demographics of the study participants interviewed, the current research's transferability was ensured. The appendices of the current study include examples of the interview guides that were used to collect data from the participants as well as the coding frames that were utilised to ensure transferability.

Reliability and verifiability place an emphasis on the audit trail (Korstjens & Moser, 2018). Transparency in the description of the research procedures from the start of a study through the development and reporting of the results was the goal of the audit trail. The audit trail needed to be ensured in the current study by recording every step of the research procedure, from the background to the conclusion section. Coding frames for analysis were offered. The interpretations of the data were drawn from the data itself and not from the researcher's own preferences and points of view. By including a part on positionality, this was made explicit

Data Collection Procedure

Interview guide and observation checklists were the main data gathering techniques employed in this study. Key informants (Social welfare officer, CHRAJ, NECCE, NGO/CSO, Assembly man, traditional authority official and Parents) were interviewed using the interview guide. Participants were given space to express their opinions. This approach was chosen because boosted the accuracy and legitimacy of the data collected (Lindlof & Taylor, 2017). Because they can follow up on or clarify their prepared questions,

semi-structured interviews enable interviewers and researchers to elicit additional data.

Data Processing and Analysis

Data were gathered from both primary and readily available information sources. The core data was gathered using fieldwork data gathering techniques. Key informant/stakeholder interviews were done in Sefwi or Twi, however some participants requested English language. The interviews were conducted separately with the social welfare officer, CHRAJ, NCCE, NGO/CSO representative, Traditional authority, Assembly man and parents. Sefwi/Twi and English were the primary language of exchange. With the assent of the respondents, data were collected through note-taking and recording was done on an electronic device. In order to obtain precise information, the recorded data were afterwards transcribed. Secondary data was gathered primarily from annual reports.

The data collected and analysis phases of any qualitative study are carried out simultaneously. Data analysis entailed gathering information by posing generic questions and creating an analysis using the data provided by participants. The sort of study used determines the type of analysis conducted. According to Creswell (2009), phenomenology research describes the universal nature of the phenomena while also providing a detailed account of people's lived experiences. Stakeholders and key informants served as the study's analytical unit. The analysis of the study's qualitative data involved multiple processes, organising the data and preparing it for analysis was the first step..

This involved the transcription of the interview data collected and the organisation of the data into different categories based on the sources of information. I carefully study the transcripts to get a sense of the overall tone and significance. The transcripts' margins contained notes and overall impressions. Also, the transcripts were divided up into text segments and chunks to code the material that had been transcribed. In more detail, the coding process entailed taking the collected text data, categorising sentences into groups and assigning terms to each group.

Following this, a list of every topic was created and then clustered based on similarities to provide categorisation based on the study's goals. Codes were created based on information found in the literature that addressed a wider theoretical perspective (predetermined) as well as on additional codes that emerged from participant data. After coding, the description of the categories, themes, and responders was done. Based on the study's goal, concepts including institutional configurations were used. To bolster the analysis, several noteworthy replies from respondents were provided as quotes. Data acquired on the electronic device was password-protected and only the researcher could access it. An external drive or pen drive was utilised as a backup storage device for recorded interviews to ensure the safety and security of the data throughout the procedure. Up until the thesis was approved, the interview guide and the data gathered from respondents were maintained on file.

Ethical Consideration

The researcher requested clearance and approval from the UCC IRB before submitting the necessary paperwork and waiting for approval before

gathering data from the intended audience. Prior to involving respondents, their permission was requested, which took place a week or two before the actual data collection started. During data collection, respondents' personal and anonymous information was maintained. Participants were given the assurance that the knowledge being shared was only for educational purposes and would not endanger them.

Respondents were free to leave at any time if they felt uneasy or were just not ready to speak. An appointment was scheduled for a later time depending on the respondent's desire and convenience in cases when the target group was not accessible. Covid guidelines were followed when collecting the data. The interviewer ensured that both they and the subject are wearing face masks before starting the interview. On the other hand, if the researcher is not wearing a face mask, a respondent has the choice to decline providing information.

As far as this research is concerned, I asked both parents and guardians for permission before having a brief conversation with their child. The rationale is that children are vital in the context of child labour and child work. Participants' comments were audio-recorded, but only their socio-demographic data was used to identify them by name. The audio was also given a special name that could only be understood by the researcher and stored on the recording device. Gyabeng Olivia was the only person with access to the recorded material, which was treated as confidential. However, if for some reason participants were unwilling to have their voice recorded, the researcher used alternative methods, such as writing, to get the vital data needed for the study. It was anticipated that the conversation would take 20 to 30 minutes.

Chapter Summary

The methodology chapter examined the research paradigm, research approach, study design, study area, study population, sampling procedures, sample size and rationale, inclusion and exclusion criteria, data collection instruments. Additionally, it addressed the validity and reliability of the instruments, trustworthiness, data collection procedures, data processing and analysis, and ethical considerations.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

In this chapter, the primary findings of the study are presented. The overarching goal of the study was to evaluate the institutional arrangements aimed at preventing child labour in rice production within the Bodi district of Ghana. The findings are structured based on the objectives formulated to guide the data collection process for the study. The objectives were (i) To explore regulatory mechanism put in place to fight child labour in rice production, (ii) to determine the factors contributing to child labour in Bodi district, (iii) to identify the effects of child labour on children's development in rice production in Bodi district and finally (iv) to examine the challenges that confronts agencies mandated with eliminating child labour in the Bodi districts.

Socio-demographic Characteristics of Participants

Providing background information on respondents and participants in a study of this nature is crucial for gaining a comprehensive understanding of the responses given and assessing the reliability of the provided data. As suggested by Pearlin (1989), an individual's perception of their surroundings can be influenced by a myriad of familial, personal, and social factors, shaped by their beliefs, experiences, and interactions. Socio-demographic variables deemed relevant to this study include age, gender, marital status, religion, occupation, tenure within the various agencies, and the presence of children engaged in work during school hours.

Illustrations from the data revealed that the sampled participants fell between 10 to 15 years for the children. On the grounds of sex, four (4) out of the thirty-two (32) participants interviewed were males for the agencies (formal) and sixteen (16) were children, ten (10) parents were interviewed and one traditional leader and assembly man for the traditional customs (informal). They were all married except 3 females who had lost their husbands (single parenting). With their religious affiliation, ten (10) were Pentecostals, four (4) were Protestants and seven (7) were Muslims. With the educational level of the participants, the data revealed that out of the thirty-two (32) participants being interviewed, one (1) had obtained master's degree, three (3) among them had obtained a first degree, twelve children were in primary 6 to junior high school but three of them had stopped schooling. Two parents had obtained middle leavers School certificates with the remaining having no formal education.

Regulatory Mechanism put in Place to Fight Child Labour in Bodi

District

The first research question elicited information on regulatory mechanism and framework the agencies have put in place to fight child labour. This research question focused on the nature of collaboration and laws available to them to achieve their goals as organisations mandated with eliminating child labour in the district. Under this section, two (2) main themes emerged from the coded data collected from the agencies. These are:

- ❖ Various laws under which they operate.
- ❖ Nature of collaboration among the agencies

Various laws under which they operate.

Regulatory mechanisms embody institutions as the set of laws and policies that legitimises the operations of such organisations (Singh, 2010). These laws and policies hereafter referred to as regulations helps in the management of complex systems. In the broader spectrum, they help to manage complex and critical issues that confront societies. Regulatory mechanisms are central to managing child labour issues in Ghana. It was identified from the field that agencies that are responsible for child labour and its related issues in the Bodi district are the CHRAJ, NCCE and the Social Welfare Department now referred to as the Social Development Department. It was also identified that the regulatory mechanisms in Ghana on child labour comprises laws, national policies, regulations and frameworks (see Table 3).

Examining the legislative framework, Article 28(2) of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana asserts that "every child has the right to be safeguarded from engaging in work that poses a threat to their health, education, or development." This constitutional provision has been codified into law through the Children's Act of 1996, Act 560. This Act delineates and ensures the protection of the fundamental rights of children as outlined in the 1992 constitution. Additionally, other relevant legislation includes the Human Trafficking Act of 2005 and the Criminal Offences Act of 1960 (Act 29).

The Human Trafficking Act of 2005, Act 694, criminalizes forced labour and child trafficking, thereby prohibiting child labour in Ghana. Similarly, The Criminal Offences Act of 1960 (Act 29) categorises slavery as a second-degree felony and prohibits the sexual exploitation of children. This Act aims to shield children from hazardous labour practices such as mining,

fishing, or working in toxic environments. It stipulates that only individuals above the age of 18 may be employed in hazardous occupations. These Acts, alongside various other policies at the ministerial and departmental levels, collectively strive to safeguard children by establishing the foundation and framework for addressing and eradicating the issue of child labour.

Several policies have been established in alignment with the constitution and Acts of parliament. These policies delineate the legal framework and operational scope of agencies such as the Social Welfare Department in their efforts to combat child labour in Ghana. Prominent among these policies are the National Social Protection Policy, Child and Family Welfare Policy, Justice for Children Policy, and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The foremost goal of these policies is to safeguard children from all exploitation forms and guarantee they obtain justice.

The Child and Family Welfare Policy prioritises safeguarding children from all forms of harm and neglect, thereby promoting their well-being. This is achieved through a focus on developing protective initiatives, strengthening the capacity of service providers to deliver high-quality support in all communities, fostering effective collaboration across the child welfare system, and empowering both children and families to identify and address potential risks.

Table 3: Regulatory Mechanism Framework

AGENCIES/LAWS/ACTS	FUNCTIONS	LAWS/ACTS/POLICIES	PROVISIONS
CHRAJ [COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE ACT, 1993 (ACT 456)]	<p>(c) to conduct investigations into grievances alleging violations of constitutionally protected fundamental rights and liberties by the practices and actions of individuals, private businesses, and other institutions.;</p> <p>(d) Taking appropriate action to address the issues outlined in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this subsection may involve implementing fair, proper, and effective measures to remedy, correct, and reverse the specified instances. These actions could include:</p> <p>(i) negotiation and compromise between the parties concerned;</p> <p>(ii) causing the complaint and its finding on it to be reported to the superior of an offending person;</p> <p>(iii) bringing proceedings in a competent court for a remedy to secure the termination of the offending action or conduct, or the abandonment or alteration of the offending procedures; and</p> <p>(iv) bringing proceedings to restrain the enforcement of such legislation or regulation by challenging its validity if the offending action or conduct is sought to be justified by subordinate legislation or regulation which is</p>	<p>1992 CONSTITUTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 28 - Children's Rights <p>HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT 2005</p> <p>CHILDRENS' ACT 1996</p> <p>THE CRIMINAL OFFENCES ACT 1960 (ACT 29)</p>	<p>Sections</p> <p>2) Every child is entitled to be safeguarded from participating in labour that risks their well-being, learning, or growth.</p> <p>3) A child should not be subjected to torture or any other kind of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.</p> <p>4) No child shall be denied medical treatment, education, or any other social or economic advantage solely due to religion or different faiths.</p> <p>In accordance with Act 694 of the Human Trafficking Act, forced labour and child trafficking are made illegal. Furthermore, child labour is proscribed by law.</p> <p>The Children's Act 1996, Section 87(b) of Act 560 classifies child labour as exploitative if it causes the child to be deprived of their health, education, or development.</p> <p>Children are safeguarded against perilous occupations like mining, fishing, and toiling in toxic environments. Engaging in hazardous work is restricted to individuals who are at least 18 years old.</p> <p>The Criminal Offences Act 1960 (Act 29)</p>

unreasonable or otherwise ultra vires;

g) to educate the public as to human rights and freedoms by such means as the Commissioner may decide, including publications, lectures and symposia;

The Children's Act designates the Department of Social Welfare (now Department for Social Development) as the main entity responsible for delivering a range of services for children, such as providing care and protection for children and overseeing the operations of the Family Tribunal. Adoption, fostering, and institutional care.

National Social Protection Policy

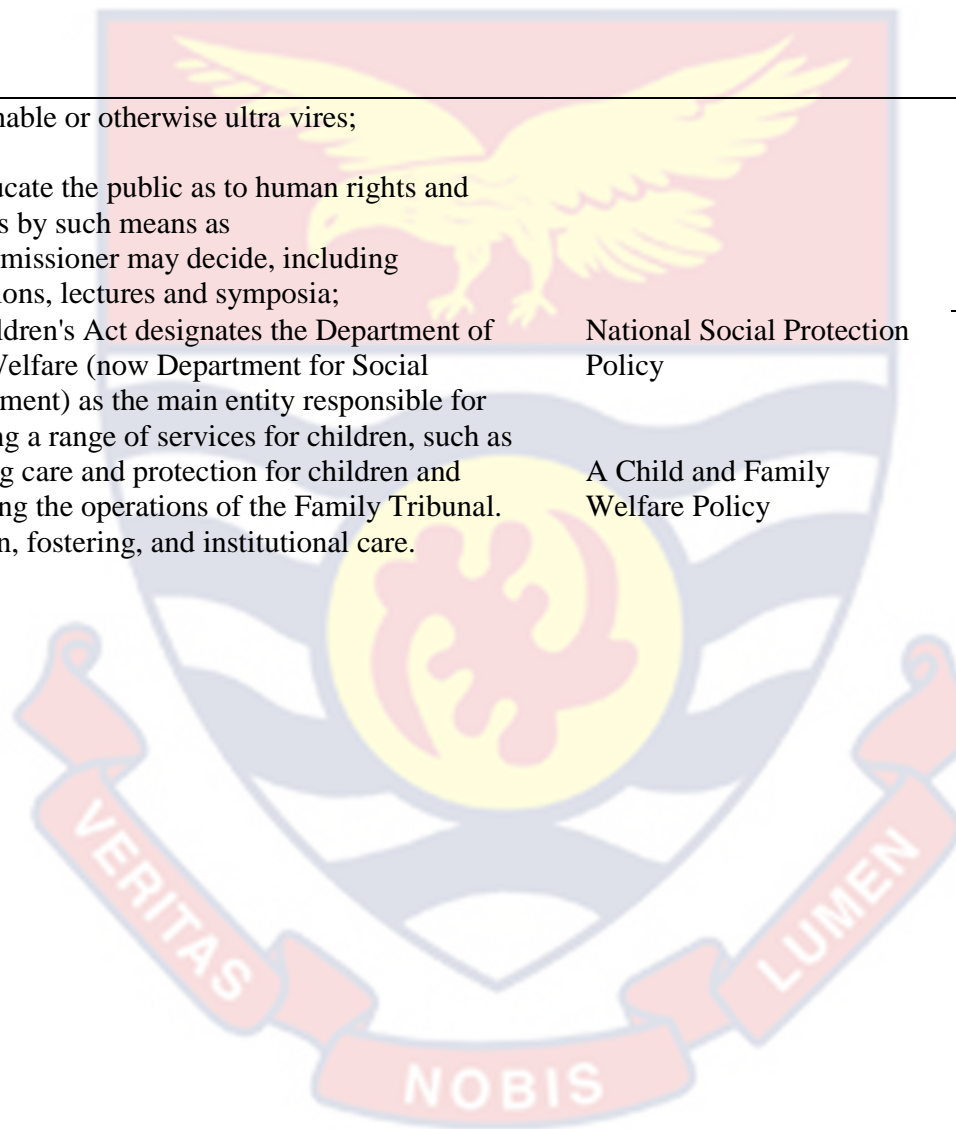
A Child and Family Welfare Policy

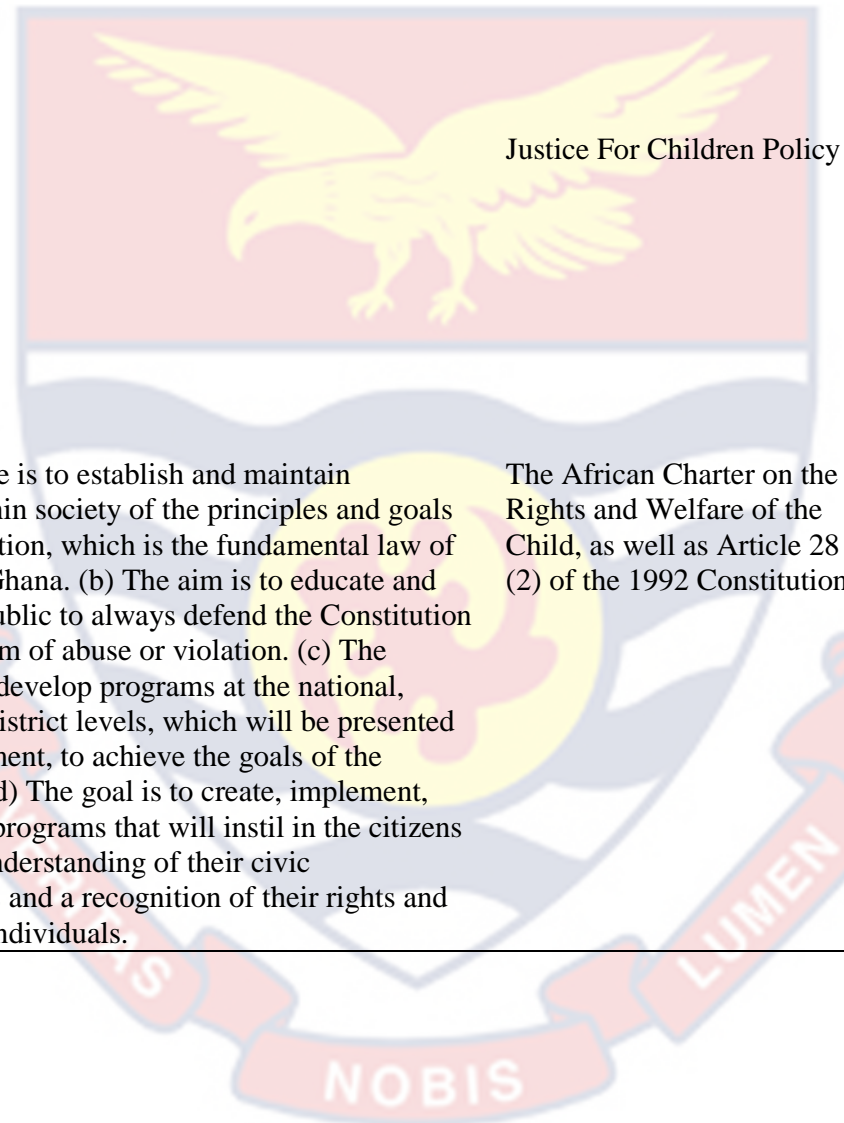
criminalises slavery as a second-degree felony and prohibits sexual exploitation of children

No person shall subject a child to a exploitative labour as provided under the section 87 of the act

The primary goals of the Policy are as follows: i] to create child and family welfare programs and projects that are more effective in preventing and defending against child exploitation, abuse, neglect, and violence of all kinds; ii] to guarantee the family welfare and child welfare systems are effectively coordinated at all levels; iii] to give families and kids the tools they need to recognize abusive circumstances and make wise decisions about how to avoid and deal with dangerous situations; iv] to improve organisations' and service providers' capacities to offer children and families in both urban and rural locations high-quality services; v] to update current legislation and regulations to conform to the Child and Family Welfare framework and vi] to ensure provision of adequate human, technical and financial resources required for the functioning of the

SOCIAL WELFARE
(Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560))





NCCE
[NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
ACT, 1993 (ACT 452)]

(a) The purpose is to establish and maintain awareness within society of the principles and goals of the Constitution, which is the fundamental law of the people of Ghana. (b) The aim is to educate and motivate the public to always defend the Constitution against any form of abuse or violation. (c) The objective is to develop programs at the national, regional, and district levels, which will be presented to the Government, to achieve the goals of the Constitution. (d) The goal is to create, implement, and supervise programs that will instil in the citizens of Ghana an understanding of their civic responsibilities and a recognition of their rights and duties as free individuals.

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, as well as Article 28 (2) of the 1992 Constitution

Child and Family Welfare system at all levels

Create a purposeful framework of principles to direct decision-making and attain logical results that will establish a sustainable justice system for children in Ghana.

The NCCE emphasizes the stipulations of Article 15 (1) of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and Article 28 (2) of the 1992 Constitution, which state that "Every child has the entitlement to be safeguarded from participating in labour that poses a risk to their well-being, education, or progress."

Source: Field Data, (2023).

It is evident from Table 3 that various laws and Acts established the agencies mandated to tackle the issue of child labour in Ghana. The Acts and policies define the scope of operation of these agencies and their functions. Although the functions are clearly stipulated, the Acts and policies establishing the agencies and their functions are silent on agency or institutional coordination. For instance, one of CHRAJ's responsibilities is to educate the public on human rights and freedoms using any channels the Commissioner deems appropriate, such as publications, talks, and symposiums.

The performance of this role clearly aligns and forms the core of the function of the NCCE. Without establishing clear line of coordination and sharing of information, this can lead to apathy and overlaps in the performance of agency functions and roles. Agency coordination has a greater impact on the management of any agency and institutions alike. It can be deduced that agencies mandated to eliminate child labour in the district functions are not well spelt out that is NCCE and CHRAJ function conflict with each other. Inferring from the structural functionalism theory, agencies such as NCCE, and CHRAJ are dysfunctional in resolving child labour issues in the Bodi district.

Nature of Collaboration

Mitigating and eradicating child labour requires the involvement of a broad variety of agencies and entities directly or indirectly. With the wide multiplicity of agents, agencies and entities at stake, it is critical that processes and actions are well organised to ensure that all parties involved are going the same direction. Carmona et al. (2021) on institutional collaboration and

coordination highlights their importance given the nature of command-and-control as well as the emerging forms of governance. To these writers, effective collaboration and coordination must be bi-directional. Consequently, this collaboration must bring to bear the active involvement as well as the dissemination of information both horizontally and vertically among all stakeholders.

However, the in-depth interviewed revealed that in Bodi District, agencies possessed mixed views on the nature of collaborations. That is, collaborations and coordination among agencies was one-sided with most international organisations like World Vision playing a crucial role when it comes to financial support in building collaboration among the agencies. Although there exists some form of collaboration, it emerged that resource availability was a major barrier to achieving effective collaboration given that most government agencies were under-resourced to resolved issues of child labour in the Bodi District. The head of social welfare Department made an assertion regarding the issues of collaborations saying:

You see the NGOs mostly have the financial support and are equipped with personnel, so they mostly collaborate with the social welfare department on campaigns in the communities. Again, most of them are into data gathering and community engagement. (Head of social welfare department July 3rd, 2023)

On the other hand, participants admitted that collaborations were ongoing in their quest and mandate to curb child labour. A key informant had this to say:

We are an independent organisation. However, we collaborate with the Police Service, the judicial service, social welfare, GES among others. Any case that violates the rights of children we handle, however, if the case is out of our jurisdiction, we refer it to the appropriate agency (CHRAJ participant July 3rd, 2023)

Effective coordination plays a critical role in managing the complex issues and functions of organizations and agencies. This is especially true for addressing child labour in Ghana, where diverse stakeholders, including supervisory bodies, service providers, and investors, are involved. Strong coordination ensures everyone involved works towards the same goal, preventing issues like poor law enforcement and ineffective management of child labour.

Coordination in tackling child labour requires active information sharing in both directions. This includes horizontal communication among local authorities, departments, and regional offices, as well as vertical communication between community-level agencies and those at higher administrative levels (Carmona et al., 2008). Establishing structures for both vertical and horizontal coordination is crucial for effective management of child labour issues in the Bodi district. Additionally, successful coordination hinges on addressing the diverse aspirations, demands, and actions of different agencies involved in eliminating child labour in Ghana, particularly within the Bodi district.

On the issues of bi- direction collaboration, the head of CHRAJ explain that:

We are an independent institution. However, we work in collaboration with the Police Service, the Judicial service, Social Welfare, GES, etc.

any case that violates the right the children we handle, if the case is out of our jurisdiction, we refer it to the appropriate agencies (Head of CHRAJ, July 3rd, 2023).

A participant from World Vision made this statement.

It's mutual, we support them, and they support us. Per the act, every district is supposed to have a district child protection committee, but the resources are not available to establish that. As we came in, we revived the collaboration, you know sometimes going to the community is a challenge for them, so we go with them to the communities and educate the public (World Vision participant July 3rd, 2023).

Institutions as an agency operate under what is widely known as rules of the game. Rules of the game refers to the trust of the agency or actors. These rules legitimise operation which includes codes, laws, regulations, standards and policies among others. Agencies mandated with eliminating child labour do so with laws that aid them to operate to achieve their goal and objectives. Evident from the interviews conducted, a handful of agencies indicated that they operated under the children Acts. However, the various agencies raised concerns about the various Acts. For example, a participant from Social Welfare Department had this to say:

The Children's act (1998 Act 50) gives the mandate of the department to make sure that children are not deprived of their necessities in life.

CHRAJ also stated some Acts under which they operate,

As an agency, we operate under the 1992 constitution, the Children's Act and other international laws on child labour. We

also make use of the Juvenile Justice Act; the International Covenant on Economic and Social and Cultural Rights is used and any existing law that protects children. (CHRAJ participants July 3rd, 2023)

Similarly, another participant had this to say;

We have several Laws and Acts which help us to operate and it is not far from what Social welfare and other agencies use. At NCCE our mandate is to create awareness, in that regard we make use of the 1992 Constitution and the Human Trafficking Acts (NCCE participants July, 3rd, 2023).

From the findings it could be deduced that some forms of collaboration exist among the regulatory agencies, however, the actual performances of these agencies have not been much effective because of the delay in the release of resources required of them in performing their mandates. Inferring from the principle of the structural functionalism theory, they so primarily rely on NGO support, which when stagnant hinders their effort in dealing with child labour issues in the district, weak collaboration among government agencies, traditional authorities have translated into the rise of child labour issues in the Bodi district. Implying that government agencies mandated in eliminating child labour are dysfunctional.

Due to the fact that these NGOs are privately owned and have some certain period to work within, they tend to consider some areas that child labour is prevalence, for instance, World Vision use to work at Juaboso district without considering the other enabling district, it was in 2021 that they consider working in the Bodi district because of high rate of child labour. It is

therefore challenging to make meaningful headway in addressing child labour. Additionally, the district relies on the general rules and policies of the nation and international organisations rather than having any specific legislation or arrangements for dealing with child labour.

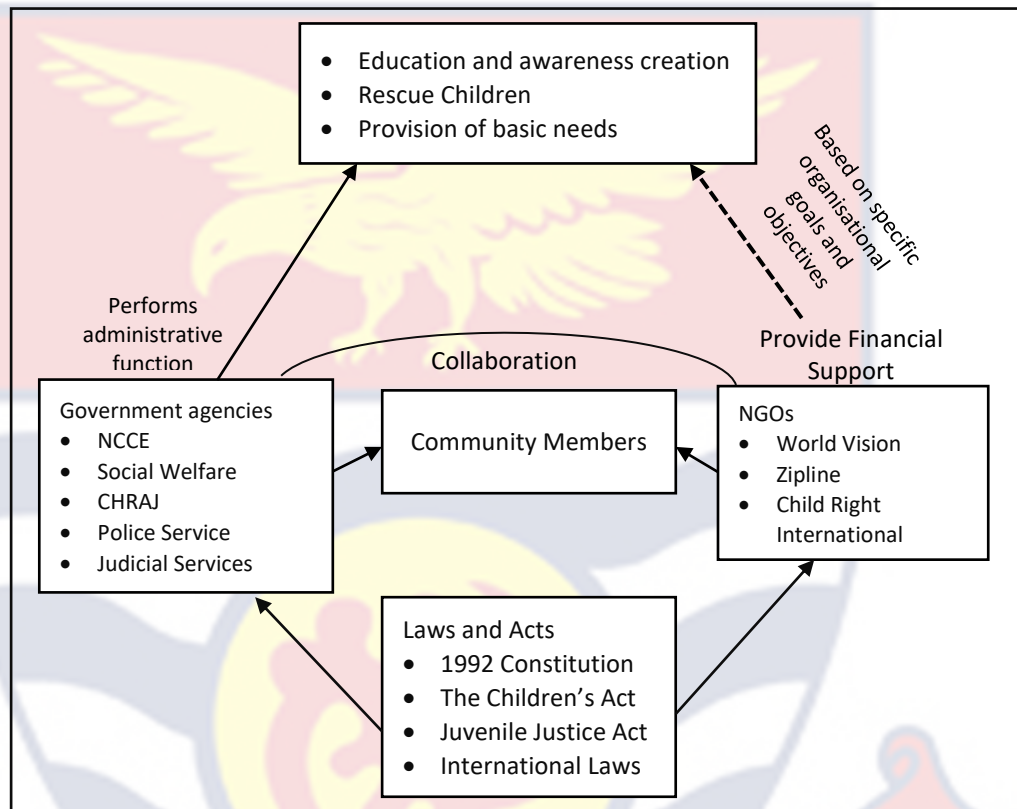


Figure 3: Framework of how the Agencies Collaborates
Source: Field work (2023).

It can be deduced that agencies mandated with combating and eliminating child labour make use of both national and international laws, acts and rights such as the Children’s Act, the justice Act, the Human Trafficking Act and the national constitution in carrying out their mandates. They also use any other law that protects children provided it is not found to be inconsistent with any provision of this Constitution as stated by Article 1(2) of the 1992 constitution and illustrated in Figure 4.

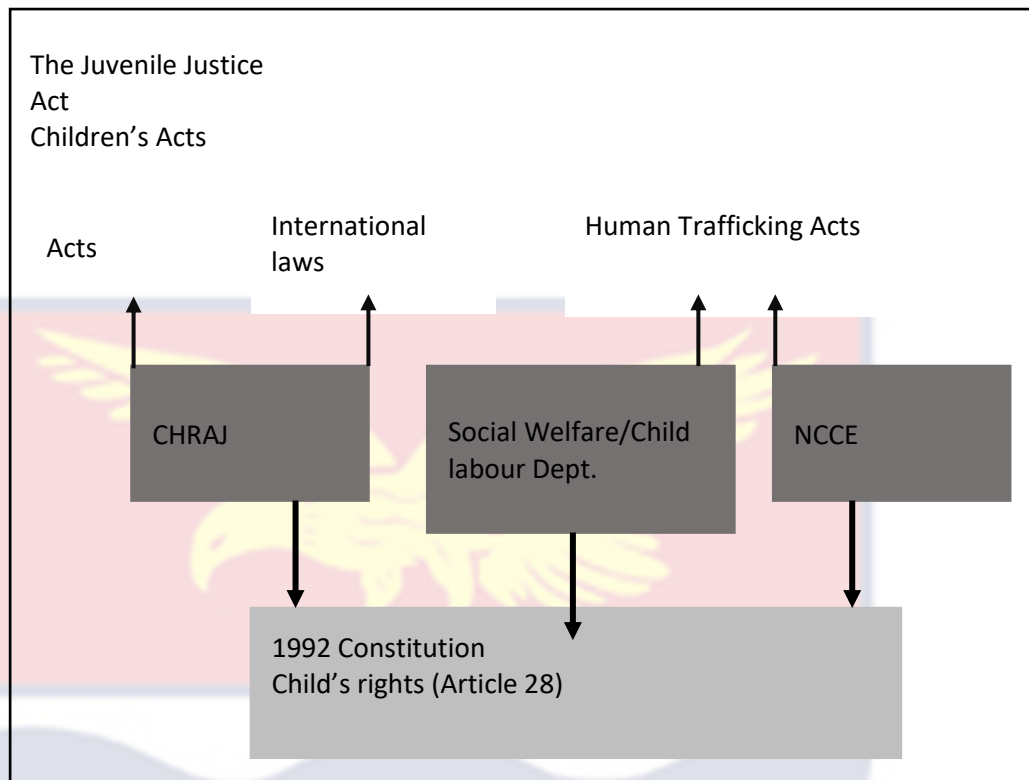


Figure 4: The laws under which Child Protection Agencies Operate

Source: Field work (2023)

Informal Level of Collaboration

Aside from the formal collaboration which mostly deals with statutory rules and regulation, the study also sought to ascertain how the norms, shared values, customs instituted by the traditional authorities in the Bodi district have helped in eliminating child labour issues in agriculture activities. This was to put the study rightly within the social context of the people. The Bodi traditional council has strict by –laws and norms that frowns on bad behaviours within the respective communities in the district. However, with the socially constructed nature of child labour issues, the traditional council themselves are handicapped in dealing with the phenomenon due to the shallow understanding of parent on child labour. The Gyasehene of Sefwi Afere had this to say:

Engaging a child in economic activities is a two-way affair. Society sees child labour as a way of life and inculcating moral values in the child and not labour. Previously one can take responsibility of someone's child when he or she behaves deviant in society, recently the narrative has changed drastically of which you cannot advise anyone's child because of the laws and regulatory bodies who seeks the welfare of children in our district. So, the traditional authorities feel that, there are government agencies who are in charge of child labour issues for instance, social welfare department. (Gyasehene of Sefwi Afere Traditional area. July, 4th 2023)

On the nature of informal collaboration, the Assembly man from the Suiano A community made the ensuing disclosure.

Most parents in this community believes that children have their own needs, so if by any means engage in economic activities that enable them settle their basic needs it is not a crime, forgetting that such activities have a detrimental effect on the child wellbeing and mental health. Who dare you the community leader to confront or reprimand a child engaging in rice production any economic activities? This has undermined our power in child upbringing as opinion leader in this community (Assembly man from Suiano A, July 4th, 2023).

Another participant stated that:

Collaboration between committees and other agencies is good. We collaborated with World Vision and Zipline branch in Sefwi Wiawso

to campaign against child labour. Zipline assisted with students' materials to distribute to the rescued students. The district assembly headed by the DCE also supported the committee financially and with students' material. The Judicial service in Juaboso also assisted the committee to rescue children whose parents find it difficult to work with the committee. (Community protection group participant July, 5th 2023)

From the field revelations, it can be established that the traditional authorities in the Bodi district have put in place by-laws to regulate deviant behaviour including child labour. However, how the subject is socially construed among community's members in the district have impeded the collaboration of traditional authorities as far as the elimination of child labour is concerned. This affirms the dysfunctional assumption of the structural functionalism theory proposed by (Parson, 1954).

Factors Contributing to Child Labour in Bodi district.

Factors that contribute to child labour in the Bodi district were the subject of the second research objective. The coded data gathered from the agencies and organisations gave rise to three topics under this section.

These are:

- ❖ Poverty
- ❖ Cultural norms
- ❖ Broken homes (single parenting)

The primary driver behind children engaging in labour is poverty. One effect of poverty is child labour, as observed from the field. The Head of Social Welfare for the Bodi District identified the perpetuation of the poverty

cycle within households and families as the root cause of child labour. The most frequent response from parents when asked why they let their kids work was to assist with the family budget. Regarding parental decisions, it was noted that funding in kids' education is prohibitively costly and yields long-term benefits that primarily accrue to the child. The financial burden falls squarely on parents, with the costs realised over the long term. Faced with these circumstances, parents often feel compelled to withdraw their children from school so that they can work and contribute to the family income. While parents may benefit in the short term from their children's labour, the children ultimately bear the brunt of the consequences in the long run.

From the interviews, majority of the participants said that poverty is the primary factor children engaged in child labour. In all the communities, poverty was the most striking factor, which contributes to child labour in rice production. As evidenced from the data collected on the factors contributing to child labour a participant confirmed the above assertion and had this to say.

The main factor that causes child labour is poverty. Lack of proper work to earn a living often forces children to make desperate decisions. Some parents do not even own an acre of land to farm on. These parents weed and assist other farmers on their farms and in return receive some money for the services rendered.

In order to survive, some parents ensure that members of the family including children are involved in the farming (a 28-year-old male participant from the community protection group, July, 5th, 2023)

Another participant also stated that,

If some parents have money to buy aboboya (tricycle) to transport their produce (rice), they will not allow their children to carry it. In this case, the farmer does not have money, so they rely on their children. Poverty is the main cause (a 40-year-old male participant from world vision, July 4th, 2023)

Similarly, a 50-year-old male participant from CHRAJ confirmed the above narrative. This is what he had to say:

The main cause of Child Labour in Bodi district is poverty. Children selling to support the family and assisting parents on the farmlands at the expense of their education all stems from poverty. (July 3rd, 2023)

The results above support Yeyie's (2020) research, which suggested that people who live in poverty frequently find it difficult to meet necessities including access to healthcare, food, and clothing. Those below the poverty line frequently reside in substandard housing and face inadequate sanitation conditions. Many reside in slums or impoverished residential areas, with some lacking proper housing, healthcare, and adequate nutrition. Additionally, illiteracy rates are disproportionately higher among the impoverished, primarily because many children are forced to drop out of school due to the exorbitant costs associated with education. Generally, individuals living in poverty earn meagre incomes, making it challenging for parents to fulfil all the responsibilities of their children. Consequently, parents may compel their children to work to augment household income (Hanandini, 2005).

In his work, Darmini (2020) reported that in Bangladesh, impoverished rural parents struggle to afford even necessities such as food, let alone cover

school fees for their children. Numerous empirical studies have highlighted the correlation between living standards and child labour (Nandi, 2016; Iqbal, 2004). Similarly, Nandi (2016) demonstrated a clear trend from a cross-country sample, indicating that low-income households are more inclined to send their children into the labour market, a practice less common in wealthier households. Furthermore, Duryea, Lam, and Levison (2007) found in urban Brazil that fathers' unemployment often compels their children to work to augment family income.

Iqbal (2004) further argues that parents who themselves engaged in labour during their childhood are more likely to perpetuate this cycle by requiring their own children to work, thus passing down the practice from generation to generation. Consequently, these children often grow up with limited education and skills. Iqbal maintains that parental education significantly influences children's educational outcomes, as it can increase the likelihood of their children receiving a quality education. Other studies have similarly indicated that poverty remains the most prominent factor driving child labour (Steyne, 2022). According to Tambun and Pakpahan (2015), parents, particularly those living below the poverty line, often make decisions regarding child labour and schooling based on economic necessity, viewing their children as contributors to the family's income.

Fithriani and Prabandari (2013) utilized a theoretical model of child labour to demonstrate that the primary reason parents send their children to work is due to their low income. Consequently, impoverished parents are unable to afford their children's education, compelling them to prioritise labour over schooling. Gray (2001) asserts that poverty and underdevelopment

are significant drivers of child labour. Gray suggests that the widespread poverty prevalent in countries such as India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Malawi, Sudan, and Chad exacerbates the issue of child labour.

This underscores child labour as a prevalent issue across Africa and Asia (Hossan, 2019). As emphasized by O'Donnell et al. (2005) and Osment (2014), addressing poverty could serve as a key solution to mitigating child labour. However, in addition to poverty, numerous other factors contribute to the prevalence of child labour.

Social Norms in Society (Cultural Values)

Social norms emerged as another significant factor contributing to child labour in the Bodi district. Analysis of the data gathered from participants unveiled divergent perspectives on social norms. Responses indicated that child labour within families is a contentious issue, particularly within cultural contexts. Traditionally, children are expected to undertake domestic responsibilities and assist their parents as part of their upbringing. While some contend that child labour is a necessary component of children's socialisation, others perceive it as a precursor to child exploitation and modern-day slavery. Local societal norms that encourage child labour and inclusion in the workforce may collide with international laws that prohibit child labour. Communities are more prone to favour local customs that support child labour and to reject international laws against it. Since child labour was identified as a significant societal issue affecting children's development, health and wellbeing, laws and regulations to control child labour and prevent it have been in place. A participant came out with his understanding of social

norms and socialisation process with regard to child labour in rice production that:

Cultural values play a role; some people see child labour as a way of life. It is a family business. Using the cocoa industry as an example, during the harvest period, the whole family must support in breaking the pods and conveying the harvest from the farm to the house. This has been the way of life for generations and something that society recognises. If a child refuses to get involved in these activities, that child is labelled as lazy, deviant or recalcitrant. The same applies to rice production where children are required to drive away hungry birds on the rice fields (38-year-old woman, a rice farmer, July 5th, 2023)

Another participant also stated that:

Culture plays a role in child labour right from childbirth. As a child, you are expected to take up the profession of your parents. The belief is that the child is being prepared for the future so that when the parents are not alive the child can survive. For an example, some of us did not go to school because a portion of land will be given to you as a property to start farming with.

This our parents did as a means of inculcating moral values in us. I can say cultural values have destroyed our future. As I said earlier, I know my child is working for people and I cannot tell him to stop because of poverty, if I was educated or have money, my child will not go to that extent to destroy his future. (A 40-year-old male farmer, July 3rd, 2023)

The implication that most parents are not aware that the future of their children is being destroyed, they are just proving to be parenting in the face of economic hardship. The findings also tell how glaring nature of child labour issues is and the socially constructed dimensions that it takes.

The cultural presumption that putting children to work ensures a brighter future for them adds support to the case for teaching kids to be strong and meticulous through child work. The common normative notion is that children who engage in employment at a young age have a natural work ethic and become resilient to obstacles associated with the workplace as adults. A parent who had given her child a job to work on a rice farm underlined the importance of giving kids jobs so they can have better future.

Our culture instils in our youngsters the idea that socialisation at work is intended to provide them skills that will ensure a better life in the future (Parent participant 4, July 5th, 2023).

A prevalent theme emerging from the data highlights the influence of social norms on child labour. This finding aligns with the research conducted by Adonteng-Kissi (2019), who argued that cultural beliefs strengthen the practices of child labour by promoting the involvement of children in informal training, whether through family occupations or household chores. This perspective suggests that such involvement instils in children a strong work ethic and prepares them to confront life's challenges effectively.

Some argue that child labour is seen as a way to prepare children for the future and instil a strong work ethic. This belief, supported by research like Blunch and Verner's (2001) findings on parental motivations, leads to situations like children in Tajikistan starting work as young as 4. This reflects

the societal emphasis on values like resilience and hard work, seen as essential for future success. However, the normative interpretations of these values may prove undesirable for some children. If the notion persists that children can only develop into hard workers through early engagement in work or child labour, then the significance of hard work itself warrants scrutiny. Similarly, if resilience is perceived as achievable only through child labour, then the value of resilience must be reevaluated.

The results highlight the importance that societies place on social values, which are crucial for the unity and survival of groups. However, they also demonstrate that different interpretations of these values, especially concerning the methods used to teach them, can vary and sometimes have negative effects on children's well-being, particularly in relation to child labour. While involving children in agricultural work can be risky, parents may feel obligated to send their children to work to ensure proper supervision and care. This scenario may occur when there is insufficient supervision for children at home or when children are at a higher risk of facing violence within the household. The potential negative outcomes of leaving children unsupervised at home may explain why parents choose to have their children work on farms.

The perceived advantages of resilience and hard work may result in their unquestioned acceptance, as they are believed to lead to success and well-being. This unquestioned acceptance was observed in the research, where children sometimes embraced their parents' decisions to involve them in work, viewing child labour or child work as a normal aspect of their growth (Berlan, 2013). The normalization of child labour by children underscores the passing

down of social norms across generations that sustain child labour practices. Therefore, interventions should target breaking this generational connection through comprehensive normative change initiatives. Additionally, some parents in the study mentioned the significant influence of gender norms on child labour. Tackling gender norms alongside broader normative change efforts could be essential in effectively combating child labour.

Gender norms and role expectations have a significant impact on child labour practices. The societal belief that men are the primary earners and women are responsible for family care influences decisions about child labour. As a result, it is common to see boys engaging in income-generating activities like farming, fishing, and mining, while girls are more likely to be involved in household chores. These gendered expectations not only shape children's roles within the family but also contribute to perpetuating traditional gender roles and inequalities in society.

Broken Homes as a Contributory Factor of Child Labour

Another theme generated from data revealed that, broken homes or single parenting contributes to child labour. Broken homes can come in a variety of forms. This can be due to the passing of one or both parents. Child labour arise due to single parenting or broken home. Children who grow up in broken households may have several detrimental repercussions of which child labour is part. According to what the parents and their children said, the victims were employed because the parents were not in paid employment and needed to generate an income to support their families. Another reason the victims were working was due to the parents' ignorance. Some parents stated that their children were old enough to help around the house. They believe a

15-year-old is old enough to work and make money to supplement their parents' meagre income. A participant confirmed the above assertion and had this to say.

My child is old enough to work to support me, ever since his dad left, I am the only person to fend for them and things have not been easy for me as a single parent. (A 39-year-old woman single parent, 5th July 2023)

Another participant also said this.

After a carefully research on some factors that influence child labour, we got to find out that most parents are single parents. The mothers are more responsible for the upbringing of the child after divorce. The fathers' heap all the responsibilities on the mothers and due to the hardship mothers relied on farming to cater for their children. A single mother taking care of five (5) children without her husband and support from anyone. (Community protection group participant, July 4th, 2023)

Another participant confirmed that;

Ever since my dad left my mum, he does not take care of us again, we are 3 in number and I am the first child, so I decided to absent myself from school on Fridays to plant rice for the weekend to get money to help the younger ones. Sometimes what to eat is a problem for my mum. So, I believe if my parents were together things would not have been difficult for us. (A 13-year-old child who engaged in rice planting 6th July 2023)

The results showed that most children worked to supplement their parents' meagre incomes. According to Gordon (2022) variables such as poverty, high family size, illiteracy, ignorance, marital dissolution and negligent parenting drive children to work. Many kids were victims of child labour because of various factors. The majority of them had jobs to help support their families financially. The children's responses revealed that some tried to increase their family's income while others sought to raise money for their scholastic needs.

Gordon's findings confirm the work of Yeyie (2020), which states that most kids who work as slaves come from unstable homes. They are mostly foster kids or orphans. For him the major reasons of child labour are divorce, breakups between families, parent deaths and poverty as supported by the Ghana statistical service (2003). Family conditions have been identified as a major factor in the issue of child labour by UNICEF 2000. Similarly, it was noted that there is mounting evidence that children who work do not remain with either or both parents due to factors such rising foster care within families, a rise in divorce and the passing of either or both parents.

This is supported by the ILO's 2014 report that the majority of working children are required to labour because their homes are underprivileged. They defined a dysfunctional household as one where there is a problem with illicit substances. They observed that children who grow up in such families often start working young. The same report also noted that working households frequently have many children.

Effect of Child Labour on Children Development in Bodi District

The next research question sought to identify the effect child labour has on children development in rice production. Under this section, two themes emerged from the data collected from the children who are actively working during school hours.

- ❖ Education
- ❖ Health

Education

Some children brought up problems like not being able to afford textbooks and meeting their basic needs. Many students had dropped out of school after failing a class, where they eventually stopped going. There was cause to believe that most of these kids were academically behind. Majority of the children participant said that they have dropped out from school because they are not academically inclined. Moreover, their parents were not willing and ready to support them because they could not waste their money on a child who is not intelligent. A child participant had this to say:

“I stopped schooling when I was in class six (6) because I was not brilliant in school and my mum could not afford to spend on me, so I told her to invest the money in my younger siblings. As for me, I am a man and I can take care of myself” (Child participant 8, 6th July 2023).

It was observed on the field that the nature of the informal labour market allowed children to find jobs by working on farms, as well as to sell a variety of goods. Thus, it is likely that, the accessibility of such a system of the informal labour market disrupts the education of the children. By the age of

nine, it was harder to put off immediate financial gain to pursue temporally distant but more valuable intellectual goals, suggesting that children may have discovered they were unable to focus fully on their studies. For instance, some children in the Bodi district chose not to attend school and instead joined groups of adults who left home early in the morning to go to farm, a larger number of younger children joined them to work at the rice farm. Some of the kids that were interviewed about labouring to raise money stated that:

I have been working to make money to buy a new school uniform...so I attended school irregularly. During the planting season, I plant for people to make money (Child participant 8, 4th July 2023).

Others were of the view that they did not have school uniforms, neither could they afford their basic needs. Given the nature of their circumstances, most the children interviewed had no option but to stop schooling and to channel their strength or capabilities into rice planting.

A child participant had this to say;

I stopped school when I was in class 6, going to JHS 1. I did not have school uniform and my brother could not afford books for me, so I had to stop schooling (Child participant 1, 5th July 2023).

Some children interviewed cited other reasons such as the inability to comprehend what they are taught in class compelled them to drop out of school. A child participant confirmed this by saying that;

Madam I did not stop schooling for no reason, I found it difficult to understand things taught in class. In a class of 35 pupils, I carried the 35th position every term, and I felt so embarrassed to go back to

school, that is the main reason why I stopped schooling. Since I stopped schooling to work on the farm (rice plantation), I now give money to my mum every Thursday to buy foodstuff. I do not regret choosing this part, I even own a plot of land out of it and I am considering training to become a mechanic next year (A fourteen-year-old child participant 10, 5th July, 2023).

Majority of the children interviewed indicated that they were encouraged to work on farms for their parents and other relatives as a means of supporting the family. To earn money for their own maintenance, several farmers also worked on other farms. During the rainy season, when farming activities were at their peak, it was more common for children to be involved in farming activities during school hours in rural areas compared to semi-urban populations. The farming season demanded the full participation of children and families especially those that were struggling financially. During this time, schooling becomes less significant.

The rise in school dropout rates has been linked to poverty within households. Many participants identified poverty as the primary reason for students leaving school. Those who had dropped out mentioned feeling compelled to work to support their families or meet financial needs. Consequently, the absence of children from schools due to work has become an unintended outcome of poverty, with some individuals justifying their non-attendance at school to sustain their family's welfare or ensure their own economic stability. Rolleston (2009) highlighted the substantial impact of child labour on school attendance using data from the Ghana Living Standards Study (GLSS 3, 4, and 5) and (GSS 2003). According to Rolleston, these

children were constrained in the amount and quality of education they could receive because they were required to skip school to help with farming, livestock care, or errands. Over time, the appeal and value of education diminished for both children and their parents.

Health

The last theme revealed that children who were involved in child labour tend to experience injuries. Majority of the children involved in child labour were of the view that the work they do for long hours tend to have adverse effect on their health as some suffered from back and waist pains as well as itches in the eye from chemicals. Some comments in support of this are:

I sometimes cut my hand during harvesting of the rice and experience severe back pains because I usually bend for long periods of time of which my dad is aware, so they boil water to massage my back for me when I complain about it (child participant 7, 4th July 2023).

Others also said that they do work on their parent's farm especially during spraying of the cocoa and rice season, they tend to experience eye itching problems because they do not wear protective gears such as masks and goggles.

During spraying of the rice, I am exposed to the chemicals. We do not protect ourselves, so my eyes become red and itchy as well, that is the major challenge I face during that season (child participant 4, 4th July 2023).

Child labourers in rice farming require greater muscle effort due to the demanding physical demands, long hours, and hazardous physical situations, such as the scorching heat. Inadequate nourishment, prolonged uncomfortable body positions, contact with chemicals like pesticides, and accidents caused by the use of sharp objects like knives along with encounters with insects and wild animals jeopardises the health and safety of these children.

Findings on the effect of child labour on child development are consistent with the observations made by Larson-Bright and his colleagues, who found that children who work in agriculture have higher injury risks than children who do not work (Larson-Bright, Gerberich, Alexander, Gurney, Masten, Church and Renier, 2007). The predominant use of farm machinery is the primary reason for the high percentage of young individuals employed in agriculture. Data from Human Rights' Watch in 2006 revealed a significant prevalence of child labour in agriculture compared to other sectors. It was approximated that in developing countries, around 90% of children engaged in economic activities in rural areas are working in agriculture (Mahmoud Fouad, Amer, Abdellatif, and Elotla 2022).

Challenges Confronting Agencies Mandated to Elimination of Child Labour

Challenges facing agencies mandated in eliminating child labour is very crucial in Ghana. In this regard, the study assesses how and where agencies get their funding, human resource and implementation. To answer this question, the processes of implementation, office space and transport accessibility are assessed. The major themes emerging from the data

collected from the various agencies were financial challenge, lack of transport accessibility and lack of family court systems.

Financial Challenge

Financial challenge emerged as the most pressing challenges confronting agencies working to eradicate child labour in the Bodi district. Inadequate funding limits their ability to conduct outreach programs, provide educational opportunities, and offer support services to families in need. Insufficient funds also hinder their capacity to enforce child labour laws effectively and carry out rescue operations for children engaged in exploitative work in the district. Majority of the participants said that, financing their activities was difficult for them. Some comments in support of this can be seen below:

We have about 140 communities and we are supposed to reach out to all of them. However, we are unable to reach this target because we are not financially resourced. When it comes to mobility, we do not have adequate cars to be moving to these communities to deliver or solve these child labour related issues and this makes the work half-done (social welfare participants 1, 3rd July 2023)

Another participant also stated that:

Just as any other government agencies, we face challenges. First, it is about money. We do not have regular funds and our services are free. However, we need money to run the office, to buy stationaries and other stuffs. The money released to us by the government is sometimes inadequate to run the activities of the office. It also delays sometimes. (CHRAJ participants 1, 3rd July 2023)

Transport Accessibility

Another key challenge that emerged was transportation barriers. This challenge poses a significant obstacle in combating child labour in the Bodi district. Many of the district's child labourers reside in isolated or challenging-to-access places. Lack of proper transportation infrastructure, high costs, or unsafe travel options prevent agencies from reaching these locations to conduct awareness programs, provide support, or rescue children from exploitative situations. Key informant revealed that;

We have only one motor bicycle as source of transport, and accessing these communities becomes difficult to us. Because money to buy fuel for the motor bicycle goes through bureaucratic process for it to be approved and this delays our ability to reach out to these promotes areas (Participant from Social Welfare, 3rd July 2023)

Lack of Family Court Systems

The family court system plays a crucial role in addressing child labour issues, especially concerning child protection, custody, and legal guardianship. However, the system's complexities, delays in legal proceedings, and inadequate resources slow down the process of removing children from hazardous work environments or resolving disputes related to child labour cases in the district. A slow or inefficient court system delay justice for exploited children and hamper their chances of a better future. Another participant iterated that; the performance of their functions is equally curtailed by the lack of access to family court system to finalise cases involving child labour. This to them makes their work quite

labourious and unfruitful. Below is a narrative in support of the above observation.

The other challenge is that, whenever we resolve a family related case and the person does not abide by our mediation, we are supposed to take it to a family tribunal (court) for enforcement. However, there are no family tribunals here. The only closest tribunal is at Wiawso, which is quite far from here. Since such cases involves people from poor families, they sometimes find it difficult to raise transportation money to finalise cases. Therefore, if we are to get a family tribunal case here, it will help solve such issues at the local level (CHRAJ participant, 3rd July 2023)

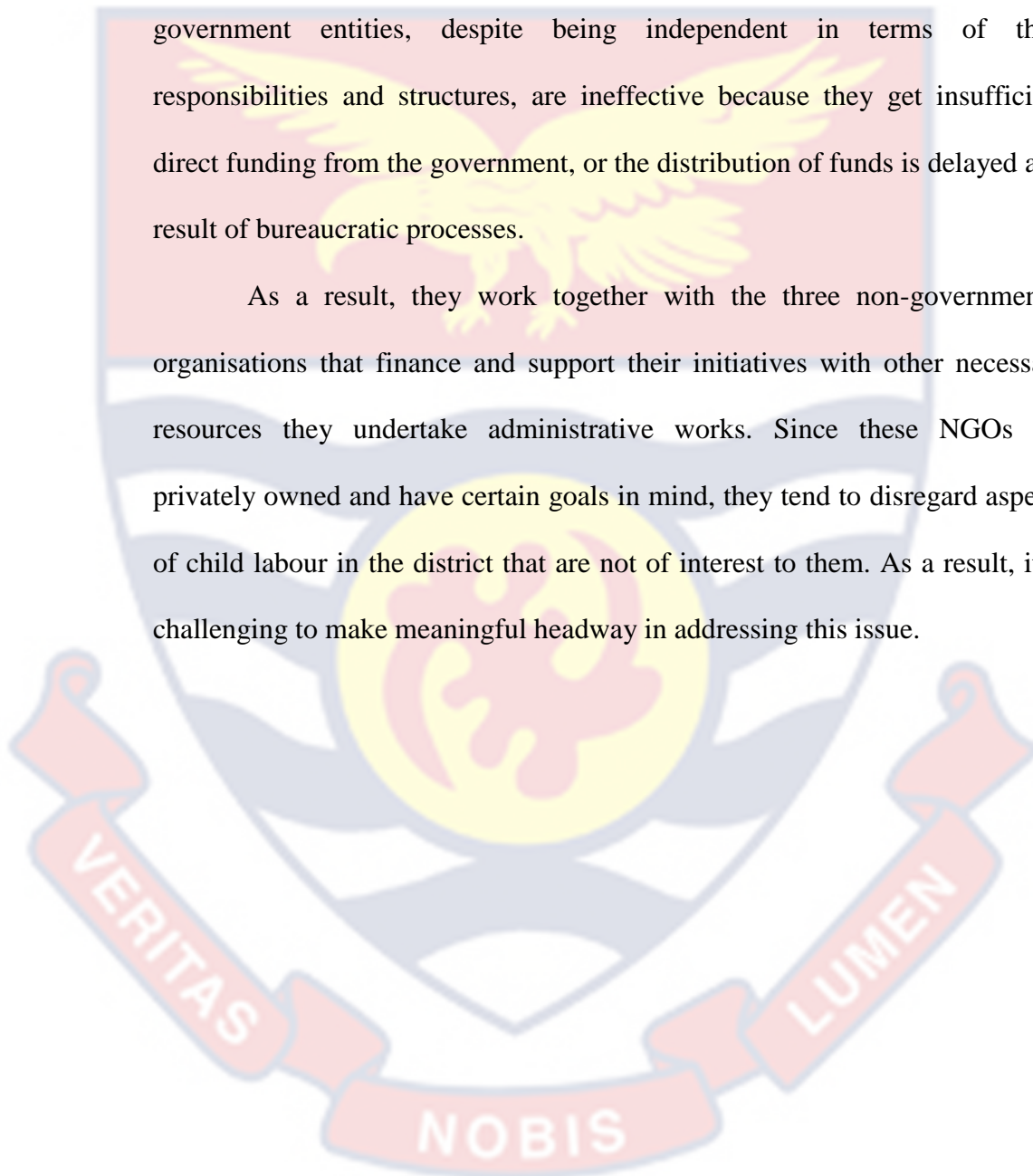
The Social Welfare Department, in conjunction with various stakeholders and policymakers, establishes standards and policy directives to ensure the effective and efficient provision of development services to the underprivileged and disadvantaged individuals in Ghana. Nonetheless, as per the social welfare officer interviewed, the government's budget allocations to the department are inadequate to sustain initiatives addressing child labour. It was also noted that a significant portion of the department's funding comes from external donors.

Other challenges that confronted agencies in the delivery of their mandates also included inadequate logistics such as vehicles to use for inspection of child labour practices and sites as well as computers for record keeping. These they lamented are lacking in the regional offices and districts.

The 2004 ILO evaluation on the National Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour in Ghana highlighted several constraints faced

during its execution. These included delays in the release of funds for activities, staff attrition, and inadequate skilled personnel (ILO, 2014). Using the structural functionalism theory, the results revealed that the government agencies are dysfunctional without support from the three NGOs. These government entities, despite being independent in terms of their responsibilities and structures, are ineffective because they get insufficient direct funding from the government, or the distribution of funds is delayed as a result of bureaucratic processes.

As a result, they work together with the three non-governmental organisations that finance and support their initiatives with other necessary resources they undertake administrative works. Since these NGOs are privately owned and have certain goals in mind, they tend to disregard aspects of child labour in the district that are not of interest to them. As a result, it is challenging to make meaningful headway in addressing this issue.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

The chapter provides a comprehensive summary of the research process, including the methodology employed and the key findings that emerged from the study. It also presents the conclusions drawn from the findings and offers recommendations based on those conclusions. Additionally, suggestions for further studies are provided to guide future research in the field.

Summary

The purpose of this study was to investigate the institutional arrangements for preventing child labour in rice production in the Bodi district. The respondents interviewed for the study were 32 in number and comprised of 6 key informants, 15 children who were involved in rice farming during school hours and 10 parents. The data collection method employed in the research were interview guide and observation checklists. The data was analysed using the thematic analysis.

Summary of key Findings

- Regarding the first objective, the study revealed that, various laws and Acts that established the agencies mandated to tackle child labour in Ghana are the 1992 constitution of Ghana, the children Acts 1996, the human trafficking Acts 2005, and the criminal offences Acts 1960 and any other international laws that aid them in carrying their mandate. Unlike the formal regulatory mechanism as outlined above, there was no substantial by-laws enacted by the traditional authorities to curb

child labour in the Bodi district. Following from this, the nature of collaboration was one sided with most international organisation like the World Vision playing that role. Although there exists some form of collaboration, it was revealed that resource availability was the major barrier to achieving effective collaboration, giving that most government agencies were under resourced.

- With respect to the concept of child labour in the Bodi district, the study identified two main reasons why the practise is still dominant despite several initiatives to curb the problem. The study revealed that poverty and broken homes are the main causes of child labour in the district. Parents affirmed that they allowed their children to engage in work because they desired for them to have a source of income to augment the family's earnings. Regarding parental choice, it was noted that funding a child's education is very expensive but has long-term benefits and mostly helps the child. Parents are responsible for paying the expenses of their children's education.
- Considering these factors, parents felt tempted to step aside and allow the kids to labour for them. Children suffer in the long run when they work while parents gain in the present. Most participants in the interviews held the opinion that child labour is primarily caused by poverty. Another finding from the data was that child labour is a result of broken homes or single parenting. This may occur because of one or both parents passing away. Parental divorce may also be the cause. Children who grow up in broken homes may experience a range of negative effects, including child labour. The victims were hired, as

stated by the parents and their kids, because the bulk of the parents did not have paid employment and needed to make money to support their family. The parents' ignorance was another factor in the victims' employment.

- Child labour in the Bodi district affected children through education and health. Some of the children interviewed stated that they left school because, they could not really understand what they were being taught in class. Children who work as child labourers frequently get injuries and other health related issues. The majority of youngsters working as child labourers believed that the lengthy hours, they put in had a negative impact on their health because some of them experienced back and waist pains, itchy eyes from chemicals and other health problems.
- The challenges encountered by agencies in their quest to eradicate child labour in Ghana and Bodi district are sources of finance, resource personnel and implementation problems namely, untimely release of funds from central government. Mostly, the fight has been on the shoulder of NGOs instead of the government and its related agencies. In addition, most of the agencies charged with the implementation of child labour issues are understaffed and for that matter are not able to deploy adequate personnel to the remote areas to curb the phenomenon. Lastly, there is inadequate access to logistic like transport and fuel for their effective operations.

Conclusions

The first objective was to examine the regulatory mechanism put in place to fight child labour in rice production. It was concluded that agencies mandated in eliminating child labour used both international and national laws, Acts and policies such as Children Acts, Human trafficking Acts, Juvenile Acts and the national constitution in carrying out their mandates. They also use any other law that protects children provided it is found to be consistent with any provisions of Constitution as stated by the Article 1(2) of 1992 constitution. With the informal aspect, there was no substantial bye law enacted by the traditional rulers in the district to curb child labour. Noteworthy, the nature of collaboration among agencies was one sided with most international organisation like World Vision playing that role. Some form of collaboration and coordination was evident in the district; however, it was concluded that resource unavailability was a major hindrance towards achieving effective collaboration.

The second objective of the study examined the factors contributing to child labour in the Bodi district. The study concluded that poverty, broken homes and cultural norms are the main factors contribution to child labour in the district. Parents confirmed that they gave their kids permission to work to help the family out financially.

The third objective examined the effect child labour in rice production has on children's development in the Bodi district. It was concluded that children who frequently work at the rice farm get injuries. Majority of children working as child labourers believed that the lengthy hours, they work had a

negative impact on their wellbeing because some of them experienced back pains, itchy eyes from chemicals and other health related problems.

The last objectives examined the challenges confronting agencies mandated with the elimination of child labour in the district. The difficulties agencies in the district encounter in eradicating child labour were resources (finances,) resource personnel and implementation problems. The implementation procedure, workspace was challenge to the agencies. The coordination among the agencies were found not to be mandatory so, the existing coordination were based on voluntary services.

Recommendations

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, the following recommendations were made to government and its agencies as well as child labourers and their parents

Agencies

- The formal and informal should collaborates to make their work effective hence child labour will reduce.
- Traditional authorities in conjunction with the District Assembly should consider enacting byelaws to protect the child. By putting restrictions on parents towards child labour and thereby reduced the rate of child labour in district

Child Labourers and their Parents

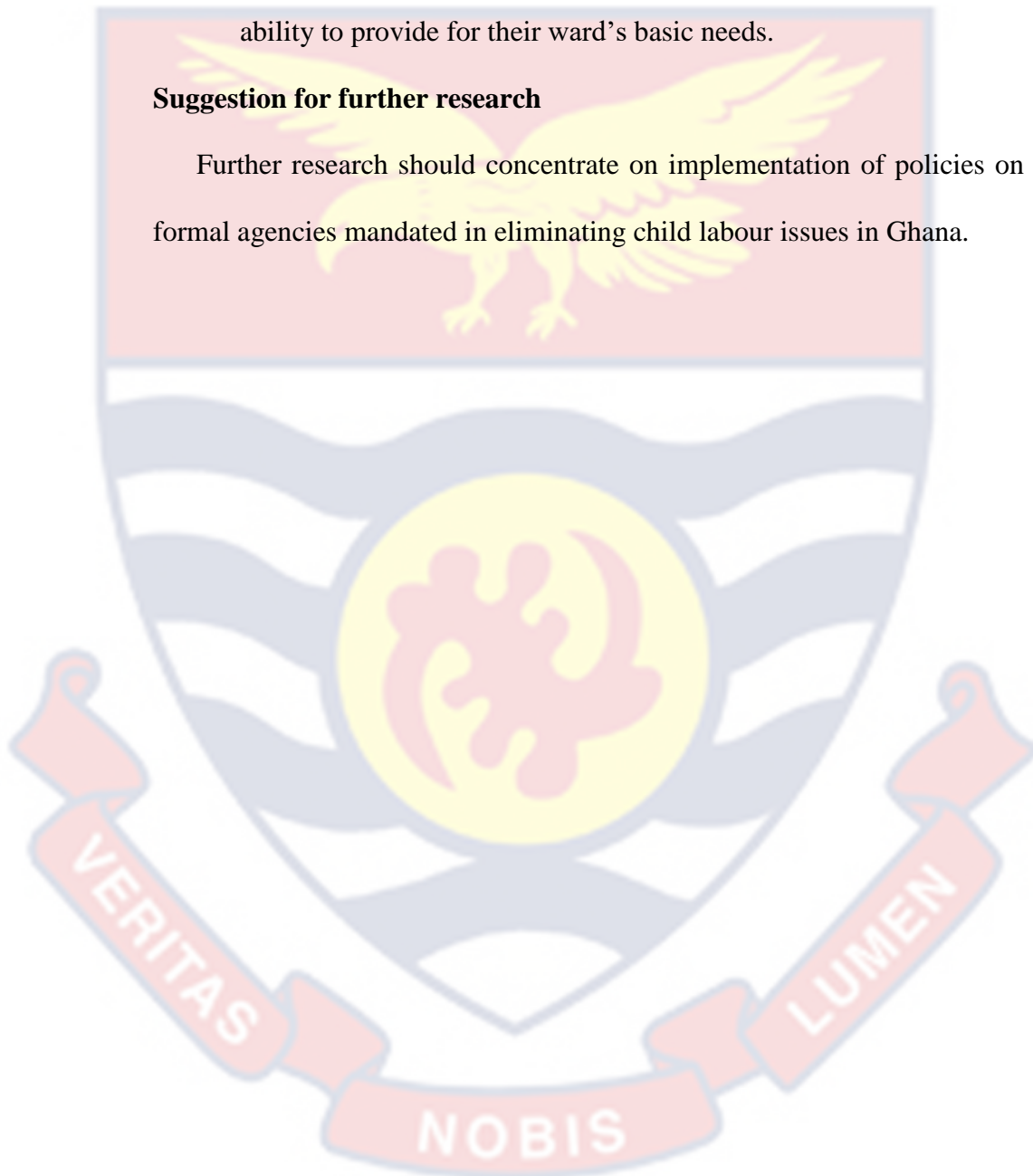
- The social welfare department (department of child labour) should create awareness among children to appreciate the cost of the present meagre remuneration they receive at the expense of the deprivation of a better future. This will enable them to make informed decision to

protect their future. This could be done through fora or by organising children's camps for training.

- NGOS and other Civil society organisations should empower parent through skills training, which will translate to an improvement in their ability to provide for their ward's basic needs.

Suggestion for further research

Further research should concentrate on implementation of policies on the formal agencies mandated in eliminating child labour issues in Ghana.



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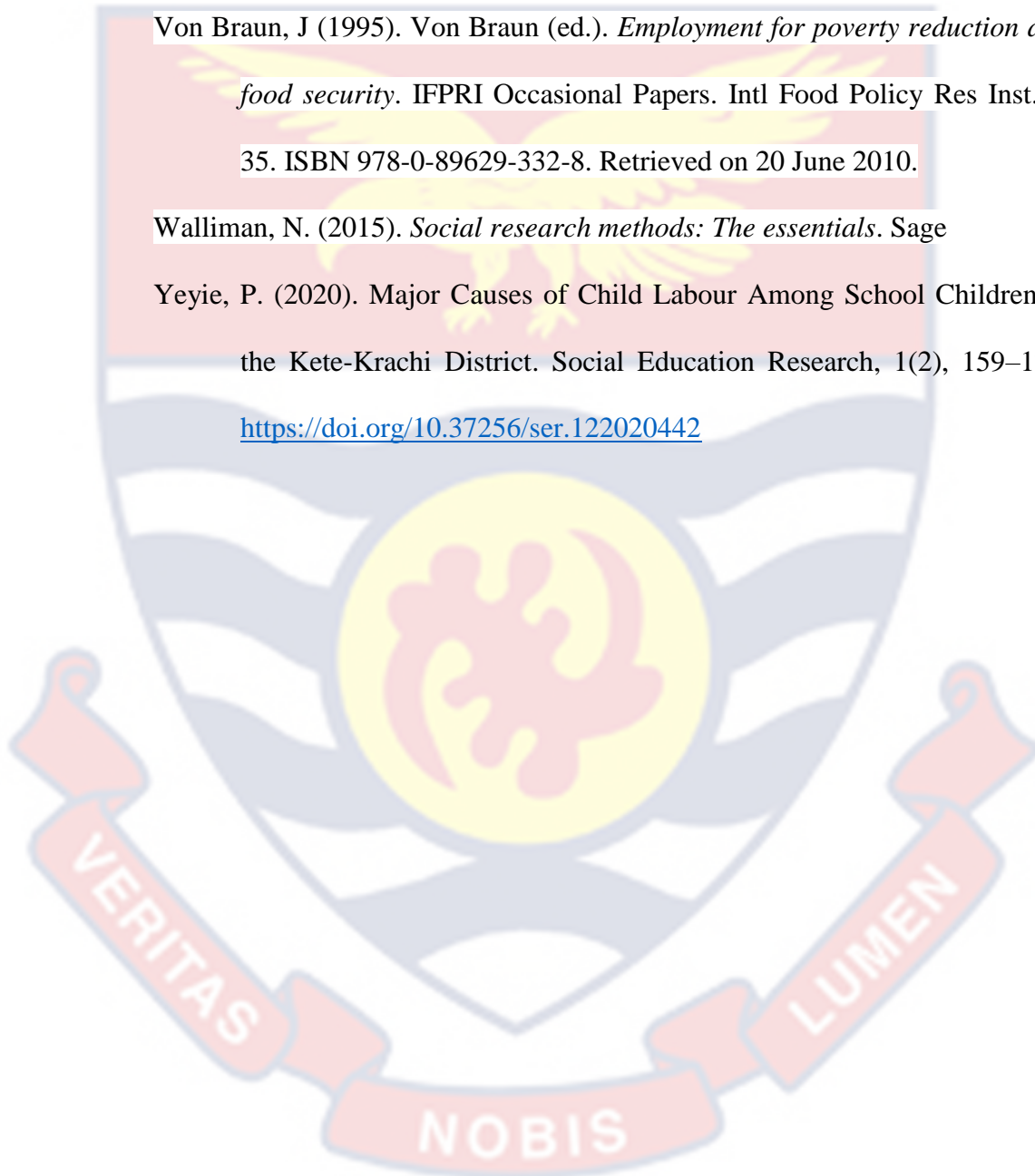
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APPENDICES**APPENDIX A****INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREVENTING CHILD****LABOUR IN RICE PRODUCTION IN THE BODI DISTRICT****INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS**

I am Gyabeng Olivia, a student from the School for Development Studies, researching on the topic: institutional arrangement for preventing child labour in rice production in the Bodi district, in partial fulfilment of my Master's Degree from the University of Cape Coast. This research seeks to explore how institutional arrangement helps in preventing child labour in rice production in the Bodi districts. Eliminating child labour is a global priority embedded in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7, which provides for the elimination of child labour in all its forms by 2025. The world will not be able to achieve this goal without the elimination of child labour in the sector of agriculture.

The research when completed among other outcomes will help to determine the institutional arrangement for preventing child labour in rice production.

The interview guide will require the key informants or stakeholders to answer questions posed to them verbally. This information is purely for academic purposes and I would like to assure you that the answers you give will be strictly confidential and will not be held against you. The expected duration of the interview will be 20-30 minutes. You should therefore feel free to offer the right information to ensure the success of this work. Thanks for your cooperation

Background information

1. Sex
2. Years of experience
3. Place of work
4. Position

Issues, questions and probe

1. From your experience, what have you found to be the primary causes of child labour in Bodi district?
2. What role does socialisation play in child labour in Bodi?
3. What role does cultural norms play in child labour in Bodi?
4. What perception or general knowledge exists among
 - a) Citizens in general about child labour
 - b) Citizens in rural areas about child labour laws and enforcement of the laws.
5. How many cases do you deal with on the average in a year? Is it on the increase or decrease for the past 5 years?
6. (a) How does the mandate/objectives of this institution include child labour in Bodi district?
(b) Which parts of the country have you worked in relation to CL.?
7. Under which Laws do you operate in relation to the issues of child labour in Bodi?
8. What is the nature of your operations?
9. Can you give me specific activities you undertake in respect to child labour?

10. (a) Do you work with other agencies in carrying out your mandate/objective as regards child labour?

(b) What is the nature of this collaboration?

11. (a) Do you face challenges in carrying out your mandate/objectives?

(b) Can you tell me some of these challenges, (Physical, Moral, Social etc.)?

12. (a) How do you treat these cases/victims?

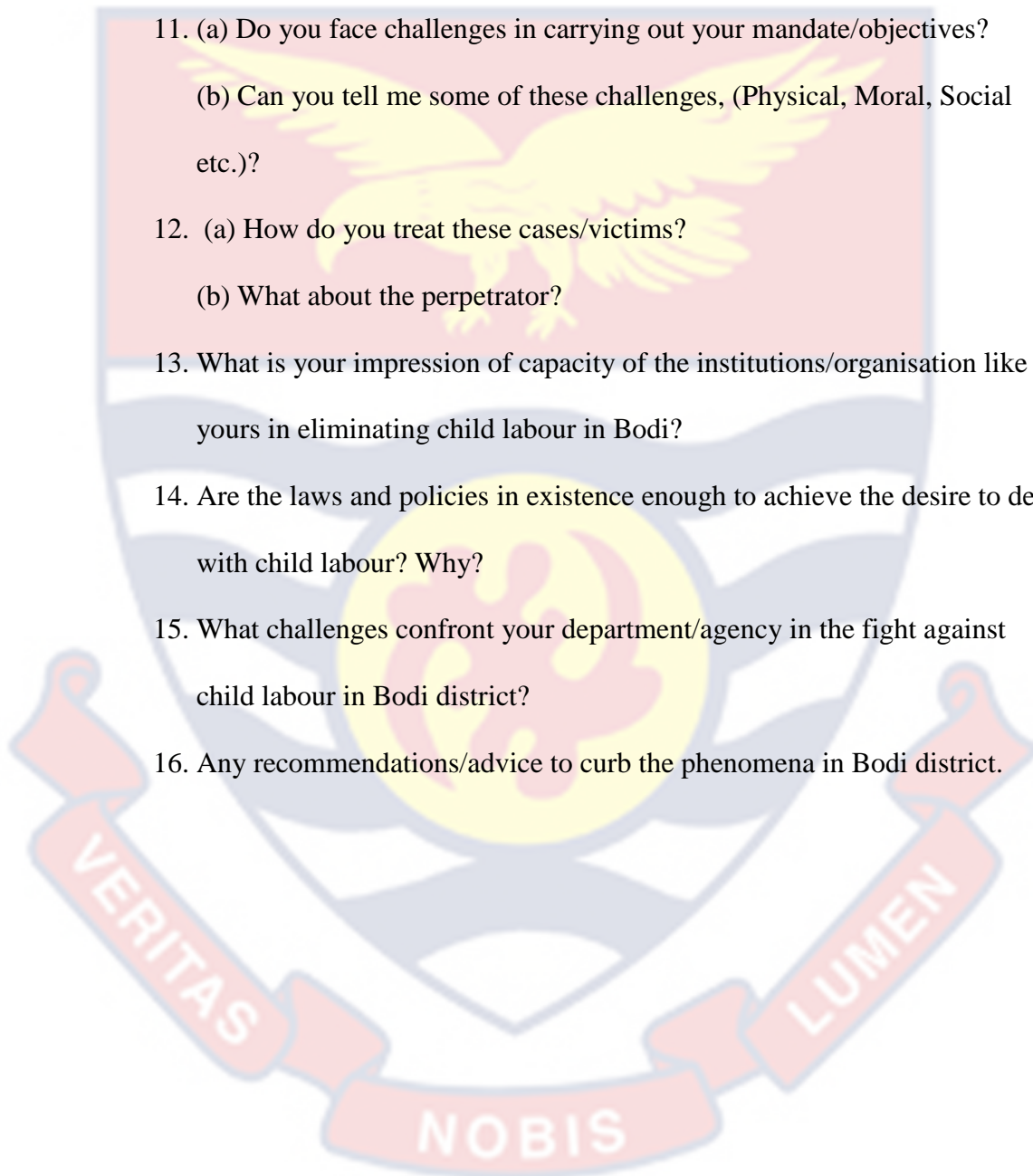
(b) What about the perpetrator?

13. What is your impression of capacity of the institutions/organisation like yours in eliminating child labour in Bodi?

14. Are the laws and policies in existence enough to achieve the desire to deal with child labour? Why?

15. What challenges confront your department/agency in the fight against child labour in Bodi district?

16. Any recommendations/advice to curb the phenomena in Bodi district.



APPENDIX B**INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREVENTING CHILD****LABOUR IN RICE PRODUCTION IN THE BODI DISTRICT****INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY PROTECTION GROUPS**

I am Gyabeng Olivia, a student from the School for Development Studies, researching on the topic: institutional arrangement for preventing child labour in rice production in the Bodi district, in partial fulfilment of my Master's Degree from the University of Cape Coast. This research seeks to explore how institutional arrangement helps in preventing child labour in rice production in the Bodi districts. Eliminating child labour is a global priority embedded in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7, which provides for the elimination of child labour in all its forms by 2025. The world will not be able to achieve this goal without the elimination of child labour in the sector of agriculture.

The research when completed among other outcomes will help to determine the institutional arrangement for preventing child labour in rice production. The interview guide will require the key informants or stakeholders to answer questions posed to them verbally. This information is purely for academic purposes and I would like to assure you that the answers you give will be strictly confidential and will not be held against you. The expected duration of the interview will be 20-30 minutes. You should therefore feel free to offer the right information to ensure the success of this work. Thanks for your cooperation

1. Have you heard of child labour? How did you hear about it?
2. As a member of the community child protection group, how many children have been identified to be involved in child labour activities in Bodi district?
3. How have such identified children been assisted? And protected (state the most recent of such activities)?
4. Where are those children now?
5. Should the practice be allowed to continue? Explain?
6. How often does the community group meet to discuss child labour issues?
7. What activities do you have in place towards child labour elimination in Bodi district?
8. What structures are in place at the community level to tackle child labour in the district?
9. What roles do culture play in child labour issues in Bodi district?
10. What other factors influence child labour in Bodi district?
11. How is the collaboration between you (committee) and other departments/agencies
12. What major challenges confront the group in the fight against child labour in Bodi district?

APPENDIX C**INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREVENTING CHILD
LABOUR IN RICE PRODUCTION IN THE BODI DISTRICT****INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHILDREN**

I am Gyabeng Olivia, a student from the School for Development Studies, researching on the topic: institutional arrangement for preventing child labour in rice production in the Bodi district, in partial fulfilment of my Master's Degree from the University of Cape Coast. This research seeks to explore how institutional arrangement helps in preventing child labour in rice production in the Bodi districts. Eliminating child labour is a global priority embedded in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7, which provides for the elimination of child labour in all its forms by 2025. The world will not be able to achieve this goal without the elimination of child labour in the sector of agriculture.

The research when completed among other outcomes will help to determine the institutional arrangement for preventing child labour in rice production. The interview guide will require the key informants or stakeholders to answer questions posed to them verbally. This information is purely for academic purposes and I would like to assure you that the answers you give will be strictly confidential and will not be held against you. The expected duration of the interview will be 20-30 minutes. You should therefore feel free to offer the right information to ensure the success of this work. Thanks for your cooperation

Background of Child

- a) Sex of respondents Boy Girl
- b) Age distribution 05-09 10-17
- c) Have you attended school (type)? If so, for how long? Why did you stop schooling (if not attending)?
- d) Do you live with both parents? Are both parents alive?
- e) How many siblings do you have? What are their ages?
- f) Who is the primary care-giver of your family? What is the occupation of your parents?

Working Information

1. What type of work do you do? Describe the work you do
2. Which of the following kinds of work do you engage in?
 Planting of seeds Fertiliser Application Herbicide application
 Water control and irrigation Bird scaring Rice Harvesting
 Tillage Operations Seed selection Site clearing
 other.....
3. At what age did you start working? When did you start working?
4. How did you get employed? Did anyone (parents, siblings) tell you specifically to work?
5. What motivates you to work? How long do you work (hours/days)?
6. How much money do you make in a month? What happens to the money?
7. When do you get up? Do you eat anything before coming to work?
8. Have you suffered any accident or bodily injury during work?
9. Do you suffer from any health problems because of employment?

APPENDIX D**INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREVENTING CHILD
LABOUR IN RICE PRODUCTION IN THE BODI DISTRICT****INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARENTS**

I am Gyabeng Olivia, a student from the School for Development Studies, researching on the topic: institutional arrangement for preventing child labour in rice production in the Bodi district, in partial fulfilment of my Master's Degree from the University of Cape Coast. This research seeks to explore how institutional arrangement helps in preventing child labour in rice production in the Bodi districts. Eliminating child labour is a global priority embedded in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7, which provides for the elimination of child labour in all its forms by 2025. The world will not be able to achieve this goal without the elimination of child labour in the sector of agriculture.

The research when completed among other outcomes will help to determine the institutional arrangement for preventing child labour in rice production. The interview guide will require the key informants or stakeholders to answer questions posed to them verbally. This information is purely for academic purposes and I would like to assure you that the answers you give will be strictly confidential and will not be held against you. The expected duration of the interview will be 20-30 minutes. You should therefore feel free to offer the right information to ensure the success of this work. Thanks for your cooperation

Interview date: _____

Name of household head: _____

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Sex of household head: Male Female

B. Marital status: Single Married Divorced Widowed
Separated

- C. What was your age on your last birthday? _____ Years
- D. Highest educational level of household head: Non formal [] Primary []
Junior high school [] Senior high school []
Vocational/Technical/commercial school [] Tertiary []
- E. What is your main occupation? Farmer [] Business [] Trader []
Hunter [] Others (specify) _____
- F. What is your total annual income from your main occupation?
GhC _____
- G. Total number of dependents in the household: _____
please indicate the total number of household members corresponding to
each category.

Category	Number of Males	Number of Females
Children between 5-9 years		
Children between 10-17 years		

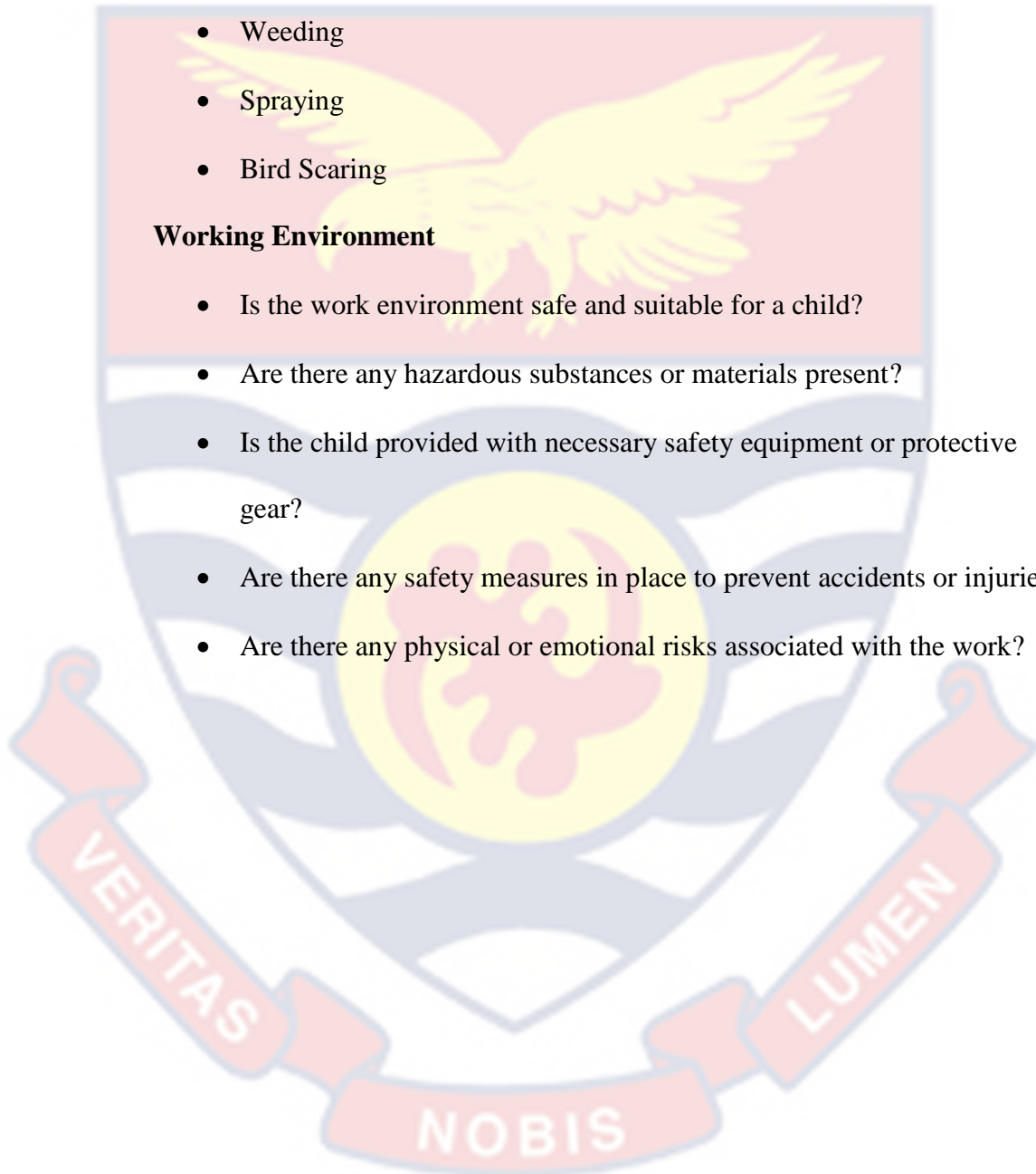
- Number of children in school: _____ (private or public)
- Did any of the children do any work for profit, family gain?
- Do any of your children produce anything for barter or home use during the last 7 days? For how long ?
- During the past 7 days, how many jobs did (child) do altogether? (hours)
- What age did (child) start working for the first time in his/her life?
- What was the nature of job done (by child)? What motivated the move to work?
- Did (child) receive or will receive money for this work?
- Do you consider the work to constitute any effect on the child?
- What do you know about child labour? Do you know any organisation that is involved in the fight against Child Labour in Bodi?
- Do you agree that culture (norms, values) contributes to child labour in the district? *Probe*
- What do you think is your responsibility in fighting child labour?

APPENDIX E**OBSERVATION CHECKLIST****Types of work**

- Rice planting
- Weeding
- Spraying
- Bird Scaring

Working Environment

- Is the work environment safe and suitable for a child?
- Are there any hazardous substances or materials present?
- Is the child provided with necessary safety equipment or protective gear?
- Are there any safety measures in place to prevent accidents or injuries?
- Are there any physical or emotional risks associated with the work?



APPENDIX F: Main Theme that Emerged from the Data

MAIN THEME	SUB THEME	CATEGORY OF CODES	EXAMPLE(S) OF RESPONSE PATTERNS	INSTITUTIONS
Examine regulatory mechanism put in place to fight child labour in Bodi district	Various laws they operates	Children acts(1998Acts 50)	The Children's act (1998 Act 50). This act gives the mandate of the department to make sure that children are not deprived of their basic necessities in life(participant 1)	Social welfare
		The 1992 constitution, the children's act and other international laws on CL. And also the Juvenile justice act	The 1992 constitution, the children's act and other international laws on CL. And also the Juvenile justice act, we also use it. The International Covenant on Economic and Social and Cultural Rights is also used. Any existing law that protects children, CHRAJ uses it(CHRAJ participant 2)	CHRAJ
		Acts 960)	The international labour organisation laws relating to labour and children protection acts (ACT 960)participants 3	NGO (World vision
		Children acts	We are basically into education, so we rely all the laws which gives room for child rights (participants 4)	NCCE

MAIN THEME	SUB THEME	CATEGORY OF CODES	EXAMPLE(S) OF RESPONSE PATTERNS	INSTITUTIONS
	Nature of collaboration	We collabourates with other agencies (NGO)	We have been working with other NGOs, the District World Vision Organisation for support, Monderles International for community development component which takes care of children) they do provide support like distribution of exercises books, school bags, dictionaries, etc., to those that we have been able to identify them as coming from poor households (CHRAJ participant 2)	CHRAJ
		Support from DCE and NGO	The collaboration between us (committee) and that of other agencies is good. We collabourated with World Vision and Zipline branch in Sefwi Wiawso to campaign against child labour. They (Zipline) assisted us with students' materials to distribute to the rescue students	Community group
		Good relationship	There is a good relationship between agencies and the committee.	Community child protection group

MAIN THEME	SUB THEME	CATEGORY OF CODES	EXAMPLE(S) OF RESPONSE PATTERNS	INSTITUTIONS
		NGO and social welfare	the NGOs mostly have the financial support and are equipped with personnel so they mostly collabourates with the social welfare department in campaign in the communities and mostly of them are into data gathering and community engagement(Participant 4)	NCCE
		Collabourates with other institution	We are an independent institution. However, we work in collaboration with the Police Service, the Judicial service, Social welfare, GES, etc. any case that violates the right the children we handle, if the case is out of our jurisdiction, we refer it to the appropriate institution	CHRAJ
			NCCE, GES, CHRAJ and the DOVSU unit of the Police service. These institutions forms the district child protection committee.	WORLD VISION (NGO)
		Nature of collaboration is excellent	It is very excellent. We have others like the Child Rights International which we move with them to communities that they are working to deliver	Social welfare

MAIN THEME	SUB THEME	CATEGORY OF CODES	EXAMPLE(S) OF RESPONSE PATTERNS	INSTITUTIONS
Examine challenges confronting institutions mandated with elimination of child labour	Financial challenge	Poor financial support	: I will say Yes and No. for the Yes aspect is the financial aspect. We have about 140 communities and we are supposed to reach out all of them. But we are unable to reach this target because we are not financially resourced. When it comes to mobility, we don't have adequate cars to be moving to these communities to deliver or solve these child labour related issues and this makes the work half done	Social welfare participant
	Skilled personnel	Inadequate human resource	Yes we do have a big challenge we have 3 personnel for the whole districts, lack of funding and they don't have a car when going to the communities	NCCE
	Financial challenge	Irregular funds	Definitely! Just as any other government institution, we face challenges. Firstly, it is about money	CHRAJ
	Community group	The work of the community committees are not met	the expectations of the community committees are not met and that has been our main challenge	NGO

MAIN THEME	SUB THEME	CATEGORY OF CODES	EXAMPLE(S) OF RESPONSE PATTERNS	INSTITUTIONS
	Transport Accessibility	Poor transport system	mobility, department like us should have a van they have one motor cycle and officially it one, inadequate personnel	Social welfare
	Inadequate support		Inadequate support to enable committee members monitor farmers on their farms to know those involving their wards in child labour	Community group member
Explore the factors contributing to child labour in Bodi district	Cultural factors	Cultural norms and values	we are purely in traditional settle, for a child to be a good child he /she will oblige to go to the farmer with her parents	Social welfare participant
		Socialisation process	: Culture also contribute to CL. In a family household where everyone goes to the farm to work, definitely the children will also join. So it contributes to CL to that extent. Interviewer: So what perception in general exists among citizens or the society about child labour in this district	NECCE Participant

MAIN THEME	SUB THEME	CATEGORY OF CODES	EXAMPLE(S) OF RESPONSE PATTERNS	INSTITUTIONS
		Cultural	Definitely, some people see C.L as a way of life	World vision
	Poverty		The main cause of CL in Bodi is poverty	NCCE
		Poverty	Basically, Poverty	Social welfare
		Poverty	Lack of proper work to earn a living often lead children to make desperate decision	Community committee member
	Broken homes.	Single parenting	The mothers are more responsible of the upbringing of the child after divorce.	Community group
	Conflict and mass migration		Some children have migrated from the northern part of the country due the continue war in those areas	Male participant
	Crisis	Death	Natural disasters or the death of one or both parents can force children into harmful work to help their family survive day-to-day	Female participant

MAIN THEME	SUB THEME	CATEGORY OF CODES	EXAMPLE(S) OF RESPONSE PATTERNS	INSTITUTIONS
	Income	Standard of living	:Living standards of parents, Majority of the parents are mere farmers which makes living a big problem financially, Therefore using the children for labour to make more money	Male participant
	Cultural and moral values	Socialisation process	Parents do involve kids to farm work as a way to make them get used to it for their own future benefits as they believe life is not based on education only	
Examine the effects of child labour on children development in Bodi district	Education		Right after I stopped schooling, was when I started engaging in planting the rice for money	Child Participant 1
	Education		I stopped school when I was in class 6, I didn't have school uniform and my brother couldn't afford books for me so have no choice than to schooling	Child participant 6



