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Assessment of the Awareness Level of Community Members on the Effects of Child Labour in Tanzania: Evidence from Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining in Morogoro, Tanzania

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Abstract:

Several studies have looked into the problem of child labour in Tanzania. However, a key issue that such studies have failed to cover relates to level of awareness among community members on the effects of child labour. This paper therefore, fills that gap in knowledge by assessing level of awareness among community members on the effects of child labour in Morogoro District. The study employed mixed methods approach with descriptive cross-sectional design and phenomenology. The target population for the study comprised social welfare officers, community development officers, most vulnerable children committees members, and community members. Also the ward executive officers, village executive officers, child labourers, primary school teachers and employers were involved. The respondents were selected through simple random sampling, stratified sampling, purposive and convenience sampling. Data were collected using questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions, observation and document analysis. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze quantitative data while qualitative data were subjected to thematic analysis. Study findings revealed quite low level of awareness among community members on the effects of child labour. The study recommends that the Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with NGOs to conduct awareness raising campaigns on the harmful effects of child labour.

Keywords: Child labour, artisanal and small-scale mining, community and awareness

1. Introduction

Child labour is a threatening complex global challenge that has existed around the world for thousands of years and is ongoing (VandeGlinde and Joost, 2011). Worldwide, millions of children are forced into child labor (Liao and Sung Hong (2010) . The International Labour Organization's World Report on Child Labour (2013) estimated around 265 million working children in the world today while the situation is more serious in Africa. The United Nations' International Labour Organization Report (2016), affirmed that the African continent has the highest rates of child labour in the world followed by Asia. It is estimated that 1 out of every 5 children participates in child labour in Africa. The rate of child labour in both Africa and Asia can be categorized as follows: 33 percent in East Africa, 24 percent in West Africa and 22 percent in middle Africa, followed by East Asia and South Asia with 20 and 14 percent respectively (Amu et al. ,2014). The United Republic of Tanzania like the rest of Sub-sahara African countries is not immune to child labour. The problem is growing and manifests itself in different sectors of the economy. The Integrated Labour Force Survey (2006) estimated that about 2 million children aged 5-14 years old were involved in child labour in Tanzania in 2006. Moreover, the Tanzania National Child Labour Survey (2016) estimated that Tanzania had 4.2 million in 2014. With the increasing attention on child labour, Tanzania joined the global campaign against child through ratification of various conventions such as the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the ILO Convention No.182 (1999) on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. At national level Tanzania enacted the Employment and Labour Relation Act, No.6/2004, the Law of the Child Act, No 21/2009 and The National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour (2009) and the introduction of the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP I &II) to mention just a few. With the increasing attention of child labour, several studies on child labour in Tanzania such as (Mwami et al, 2002 Akarro & Mtweve (2011 and Human Rights Watch, 2013) have been conducted but most of them have focused on the working conditions, nature, extent and impact. No doubt these studies have helped to better understand the magnitude and the everyday life situations of children involved in child labour. The nagging question is whether the community is aware of the effects of child labour remains an answer. Taneja (2006) argued that awareness is one of the key factors for effective implementation of preventive strategies to combat social problems including child labour. Collings (2002) asserted that recognizing the level of awareness of the community is one of the best practices to prevent a social problem. Therefore, considering the preceding fact, this article assessed the level of awareness of the community on the effects of child labour in Tanzania, based on the experience of ASM in Morogoro District.

2. Research Methodology

The study was carried out in Morogoro District, specifically, at (Kiwangwa "A" and Rudevelo villages). The villages were purposefully selected because they are the most active areas in ruby and gold mining and involves the use of child labour in mining operations (Mutagwaba et al, 1997 and Kacholi 2012). The research on which this article is based adopted a mixed methodological (both quantitative and qualitative) data collection and analysis. The quantitative approach applied the cross-sectional design because it is the best when the sample size consists of different strata. In cross-sectional survey data were collected at one point in time (Catane, 2002). The descriptive cross-sectional survey is relatively easy, economical in terms of time and cost efforts. In the qualitative approach the study adopted phenomenology design. Phenomenological research seeks to describe rather than explain (Creswell, 2014). This design enabled the researcher to interact deeply with the studied group in order to obtain detailed and holistic data from the natural settings. The target population of this study comprised social welfare officers, community development officers, labourers, ward executive officers and village executive officers. The study further involved the most vulnerable children committees (MVCC), child labourers, parents of working and non-working children, employers of child labourers, primary school teachers and community members. The sampling procedure in quantitative approach employed is simple random sampling and stratified random sampling methods. The choice of the methods was informed by the fact that the selection of any of the element of the population of study must be done without bias. The sample size for quantitative approach was 228 respondents as determined by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table for determining sample size from a given population. The simple random sampling was used to select 24 teachers, 27 community development officers, 10 social welfare officers and 24 MVCC members' while 127 community members were selected using stratified random sampling. In qualitative approach the sampling of twenty-five (25) participants were purposively sampled where by eight (8) participants were parents of working children and another eight (8) were non-working children. Likewise, two (2) ward executive officers, two (2) village executive officers, District social welfare officer, District community Development officer, District Labour Officer and two (2) head teachers were purposively selected. The study finally sampled two (2) employers and twelve (12) child labourers using convenience sampling respectively. The researcher made use of purposive sampling and convenience sampling techniques because the population elements are not deliberately given equal chance of being selected and also data was collected where the respondents are available. The structured questionnaire, was used to collect quantitative data from 228 respondents categorized as follows: 24 teachers, 27 community development officers, 10 social welfare officers and 24 MVCC members and 127 community members. On the other side, the in-depth interview and focus group discussions methods were the major qualitative instruments used to solicit data from 39 participants. The in-depth interview was used to collect data from eight (8) parents of working children, eight (8) non-working children, two (2) ward executive officers and two (2) village executive officers. Also, data from the District social welfare officer, District community Development officer, District Labour Officer, and two (2) head teachers were captured using in-depth interviews. The same interview guide was used for focused group discussions to collect data from twelve (12) child labourers. The observation method was used as back up of the in-depth interview and focus group discussions. In terms of data analysis, quantitative data gathered from 228 respondents using questionnaire were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages were used to describe the characteristics of the study sample. The chi-squared test was used to test relationships between income and child labour. The qualitative data analysis on the other side was based on data collected from 39 participants and the analysis was subject to thematic analysis model developed by Braun & Clarke (2006) based on six phases. The phases included: familiarization with data, generation of initial codes, researching for themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes and producing the report.

3. Results and Discussion of Findings

3.1. Level of Awareness of the Community Members on Harmful Effects of Child Labour

The first objective of the study was to assess level of awareness among community members on effects of child labour. The level of awareness determines community action towards combating the problem.

Awareness	Category of Respondents					
	Community	Teachers	SWOs	CDOs	MVCC	Total
Aware	39 (17.1%)	23 (10.1%)	10 (4.4%)	27 (11.8%)	27 (11.8%)	126 (55.3%)
Not aware	57 (25%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	9 (4%)	66 (29%)
Not sure	31 (13.6%)	1 (0.4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (2%)	36 (15.8%)
Total	127 (55.7%)	24 (10.5%)	10 (4.4%)	27 (11.8%)	40 (17.5%)	228 (100%)

Table 1: Respondents' Awareness on Effects of Child Labour (N=228)

Source: Field Data (2016)

As it appears from Table 1, the study findings revealed that when compared with other population categories it is clear that in terms of awareness of harmful effects associated with working in ASM, many community members are not aware while others are not sure. However, findings indicated that, the government officials/civil servants such as SWOs, CDOs, and the teachers are aware of the effects of child labour. The MVCC also seem to be aware of the effects probably because they are concerned with child protection in their respective localities. Almost certainly this difference might be the results of different levels of education and positions they hold in the community. The quantitative results were

supported by views of participants from two villages ,namley Kiwangwa "A" and Rudevelo villages . The summary offindings from Kiwangwa A and Rudevelo villages are presented under Table 4.10 (a), Table, 4.10(b) and Table 4. The presentation of tables is followed by explanations. More details are as follows.

Location	Code	Level of Awareness	
		Aware	Not Aware
Kiwangwa "A" village			
Parents of working children	PWC1-4	0	4
Parents of non-working children	PNWC1-4	1	3
WEO	WEO1	1	0
VEO	VEO1	0	1
Head Teacher	HT1	1	0
Emplyers of children	ECL1-2	0	2
Sub-Total		3	10

*Table 2: Awareness Level on Effects of Child Labour at Kiwangwa
Source: Field Data (2016)*

Table 2 displays level of awareness as self-reported by each participant. Ten (10) of the thirteen (13) participants indicated that they are not aware on the effects associated with child labour in ASM. On the other side awareness of parents for both working and non- working children do not appear to be widespread. This situation might be due to limited access to information caused by limited access to media. Furthermore, the study revealed that government officials such as WEOs, VEOs and the Head Teacher are aware of the effects of child labour. Probably this difference might be the results of different levels of education and positions they hold in the community. The following quotes support the above statements: As a community leader I used to attend different trainings on child protection and child labour is one among topics being discussed .So I'm aware of what it means by child labour but in this community people have no have enough knowledge about the effects associated with children's involvement in mining activities I think that's why they allow their children to participate in mines because they don't calculate the risks associated with working hazardous environments .But sometimes though some people might be aware of the effects but due to poverty they have no option. In this community people desire to see their children working very hard in different sectors because this is considered to be preparing them to become independent adults and those who do not work are considered to be lazy (Interview, WEO, June .2016).

Another similar view was Shared by VEO1:

I know what child labour is though not in details and according to my opinions it has negative effects though sometimes parents benefit from this activity. For example, when children work it means they work for their families and help them to get food. On the other side the environments where children work is very risky. For example, children who work in ASM may be injured or even death and sometimes they fail to participate in education because of being busy.... (Interview, VEO1, June, 2016).

Another participant (HT) added that:

In my experience of working with the community of Morogoro District, most of them seem to be not aware of what it means by child labour and how it adversely affects children. For them working hard is what is important and they are not knowledgeable about the consequences associated with working in such hazardous environment. For instance, children are working at Rudevelo were ASM activities take place and actually the environments are very dangerous for their health (Interview, HT, June 2016).

Deducing from the three (3) quotations it is clear first of all the awareness level of government officials like teachers, VEOs, and WEOs are aware of the negative effects of child labour. It should be clear that these officials are employed by virtue of their levels of education and therefore it's education level and exposure that makes them to have knowledge which is different from the ordinary community members. The study also collected views from people who employ children in ASM. According to the interview conducted with oneof the Employers (male 38 years old) it is obvious that employers think that employing children means helping poor families and to them it is a good thing to support such families. The following remarks provide evidence on such attitude. Yes, I've some children in my mines. I employ them because they to ask for jobs and because I feel sorry for the poor families and I feel obliged to help them by offering some activities to do so that they can earn a living. You know in this community most of the households are very poor because the agricultural production is very low and some parents are being abandoned by their husbands so they have no support. Frankly speaking I don't think if it is bad to help children because at least they can get something to cater for their basic requirements (Interview, ECL1, and June 2016).

3.2. Awareness of Community Members on Effects of Child Labour at Rudevelo

The study also collected views of participants from Rudevelo were also mining activities take place and children are also involved. Table 4.9.2 displays results of participants on level of awareness.

Rudevelo Village	Code	Aware	Not Aware
Parents of working children	PWC5-8	1	2
Parents of non-working children	PNWC1-4	1	3
WEO	WEO2	1	0
VEO	VEO2	1	0
Employers of children	ECHL2	0	1
Grand Total		4	6

Table 3: Awareness Level on Effects of Child Labour at Rudevelo

Source: Field Data (2016)

Table 3 is a presentation of participant's views regarding their levels of awareness on the effects of child labour from Rudevelo village. Different interviews were conducted and participants had different views. For example (6) of the ten (10) participants indicated that they were not aware of the effects associated with working in ASM while six were aware. Looking at Table 3, it can be seen that most of parents of both working and non-working children are not aware of the effects of child labour. This situation implies that the decision to work among children is also influenced by parents because to them child labour is not a problem. It can also be observed that both VEO and WEO of Rudevelo village are aware on the effects of child labour. This is not different from the awareness level of WEO and VEO from Kiwangwa "A" village. Therefore, it can be concluded that, local leaders in Morogoro District are aware of child labour and the effects associated effects a situation that can be translated that leaders are aware because they are the ones attending different trainings but they disseminated knowledge acquired to the grassroots levels. The quotation concurs with the findings by Khan (2016) who found that both the parents and children are often not aware of the hazards to which they are exposed. In some cases, the parents do know but cannot find another alternative to create a source of income. Moreover, Chiwele (2013) found that most parents are not aware of the negative effects of child labour. Low awareness of parents on the effects of child labour is also confirmed by the report of the National Action Plan of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (2009-2015) on Elimination of Child Labour. According to this report many people do not understand the concept, effects and legal provisions relating to child labour. Furthermore, Chiwele (2006) in a study of perceptions of the community towards child labour in Lusaka-Urban affirmed that large number of individuals are ignorant about child labour and its devastating effects and this can explain why community members engage children in discriminate labour. It can be concluded child labour continues to persist in Tanzania, especially in Morogoro District because the community is not aware what constitutes child labour and how children are negatively affected.

3.3. Children's Awareness on Effects of Child Labour

Children are obviously the center of this study because know their world of work better than any one else (Mwami et al, 2002). Therefore, for this reason, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with children at Kiwangwa "A" and Rudevelo villages. Local leaders from the respective villages facilitated the interviews with the working children. This made it easier to converse with some of the children purposefully selected to participate in this study. During the actual practice two (2) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted, one from each village. Group one (1) involved children from Kiwangwa Village and Group two involved children from Rudevelo village. The responses from each group are presented under Table 4

Location	Participants	Code	Aware	Not aware	
Kiwangwa "A"	One	CL1	0	1	
	Two	CL2	0	1	
	Three	CL3	1	0	
	Group 1	Four	CL4	0	1
	Five	CL5	0	1	
	Six	CL6	0	1	
Sub -Total			1	5	
Rudevelo/Mngwilu	Seven	CL7	1	0	
	Eight	CL8	0	1	
	Group 2	Nine	CL9	0	1
	Ten	CL10	1	0	
	Eleven	CL11	1	0	
	Twelve	CL12	0	1	
Sub- Total			3	3	
Grand Total			4	8	

Table 4: Children's Awareness on Effects of Child Labour

Source: Field Data (2016)

Key: CL=Child Labourer

Table 4 displays level of awareness by each participant. For instance, eight participants of the twelve participants indicated that they are not aware with the effects associated with child labour in ASM. These results suggest that in both

villages' children's level of awareness with regards to child labour related consequences are limited. These findings are in consonant with the remarks shared by a child (male aged 11 years old) who directly was involved in mining activities Lubwe lutari (Kiwangwa village). Two FGDs were conducted, one from each village. Group one (1) involved children, Kiwangwa Village and Group two involved children from Rudevelo village. Participants in the FGDs expressed their understanding level of the effects associated with child labour. The following quotations illustrate the awareness levels of children on the effects of child labour.

Am not aware of child labour and even the effects because for me working is part of helping my parents. I don't want to see my parents suffer from hunger while I'm still alive. My parents are too old so if I don't work, we won't be able to get our daily meal. I usually work hard and the money that I get here is used to buy food at home and so escape from going to bed hungry (Interview, CL1, and June 2016).

From this excerpt it can be said that not only children do not have details on how child labour related activities affect them but also, they have dedicated their lives to support their families.

A participant from Group 1 also indicated:

We are working to support our parents and we actually do not know about the consequences of working in ASM. For me working in ASM pays a lot because I can support my parents to get basic needs like food and even (Interview, CL3, June 2016). Another participant from Group 2, (Male child 13 years old), explained similar statements. For instance, he explained that:

I don't think if working in mines is a bad thing because it provides me with basic requirements of which my parents cannot afford (Interview, CL 3, and June in 2016).

Deducing from this excerpt it can be said that children work in hazardous environments because of irresponsible parents. For instance, the situation of the child to state openly that he works to get money to buy clothes implies that parents do not provide their children with basic needs. Therefore, it can be concluded that, child labour persists because the local community is not aware of the harmful effects of child labour.

4. Limitations of the Study

This study has a limitation inherent that might hinder the effectiveness of the research process. The main limitations of this study is that it was conducted in Morogoro District only and the small sample size of respondents drawn from within a limited geographic area due to limited time and financial constraints. The population and resulting sample resides in Morogoro District and does not present the population impacted by child labour in other Districts of Morogoro Region. Therefore, any generalisations of the results obtained for this study made should be limited to the population from which the sample was selected and remain specific to the study areas. However, despite this limitation, it is expected that the results could benefit organizations in other Districts of Tanzania which are also working with children involved in ASM.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Drawing from the study findings it can be concluded that child labour persists in Tanzania because of low level of awareness among local community members on harmful effects of child labour. It is hereby recommended that the government through the Department of Social Welfare should raise awareness on the harmful effects of child labour. Also CSOs should upscale awareness raising programmes on the CRC, the ACRWC and the Law of the Child Act and advocate for the harmonization of provisions on child labour, particularly the inclusion of the informal sector in the Employment Act.

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