

**Determinants of Child Labour Elimination in Tanzania**

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**Abstract**

Child labour is a great concern in many developing countries including Tanzania. Despite a number of strategies developed by the Government of Tanzania and ILO to curb the problem for many years, still the problem persists and no convincing information is available to explain the phenomenon. This paper examined determinants of Child Labour Elimination (CLE) in Tanzania. The information for this study was obtained from Community Development Workers (CDW) and ward and village/street executive officers who were selected purposively while simple random sampling (lottery) was used in selecting school children and systematic sampling was used to obtain household heads. Working children were obtained using snowball sampling approach. The sample size used in this study is 478 respondents. Primary data were collected through structured interview while secondary data were obtained from published documents. The data collected were coded and entered into Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and then analysed using predetermined regression model in the *limdep* computer software. The study revealed that key determinants of child labour elimination in Tanzania include education, household size, knowledge on child labour concepts, children accessibility to guidance and counseling services, people's attitude towards child labour, people's knowledge on worst forms of child labour, people's knowledge on child labour elimination strategies, implementation of child labour elimination strategies and cultural acceptance of child labour as part of socialization process. It is therefore, recommended that people be educated on various child labour concepts and the effects of child labour.

**Key words:** Child labour, Child labour elimination

## **1. Introduction**

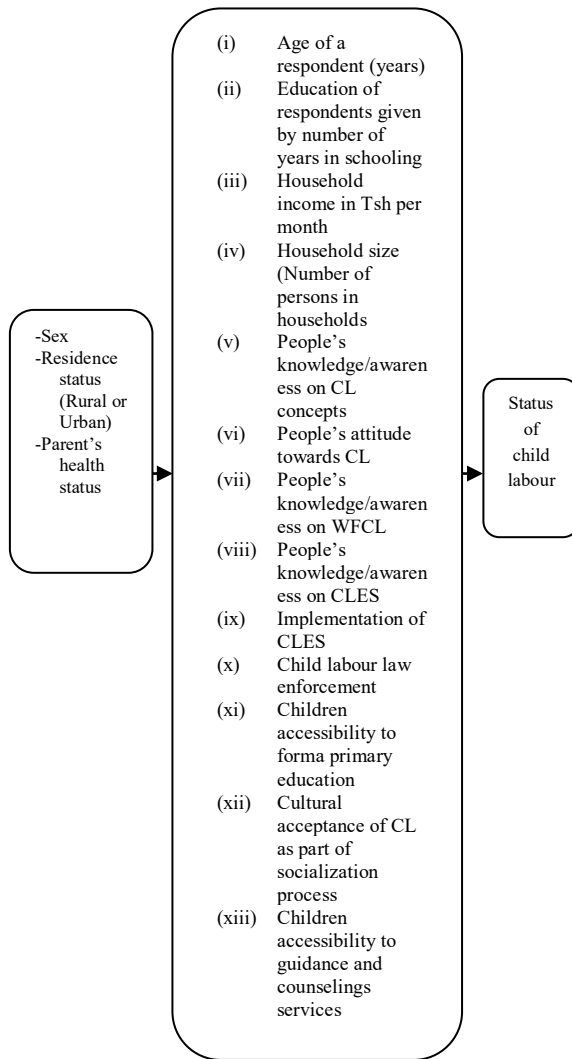
Child labour has become the focus of attention throughout the world and one of the faces of poverty in many developing countries. Although in many developing countries like Tanzania, various strategies have been designed and implemented to curb the problem, child labour continues to be a problem of multifarious dimensions. It has been noted by the ILO that, the number of working children, and their sufferance scale increases year by year as millions of children continue working in servitude and under hazardous conditions (ILO, 2006). Child labour harms children's wellbeing and deprives them from education development and future livelihood (ILO, 2006; Edet and Etim, 2013). ILO (2006) and ILO (2010), further pointed out that over 129 million girls and boys aged 5 to 17 years old work in crop and livestock production, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry helping supply some of the food and drink we consume and the fibres and raw materials we use to make other products with Africa having more of 10-14 years old working children than other regions.

Reports on child labour in Tanzania revealed that, children aged 5-9 years (25.5%) and 15- 17 years (58.9%) both in rural and urban areas do work in economic activities and housekeeping activities Irinnews organisation (2005). Studies on child labour in Tanzania revealed that child labour is increasing at an alarming rate (Irenews, 2005; Global Match, 2008; Peter, 2010). Recruitment of female children (girls) from rural areas to urban areas for domestic services and prostitution is on increase. Expansion of informal sector in urban areas is reported go together with an increase of child labour. Studies on child labour in Tanzania further showed that child labour in economic activities is higher in rural areas (45.7%) compared to urban and peri -urban areas where children do work in commercial agriculture, quarrying/mining and fishing ILO, 2006; UNICEF, 2006). These studies further showed that child labour in social activities (housekeeping) is relatively high in Dar es Salaam (82.2%) and (61.6%) in other urban areas compared to rural areas.

ILO and Labour Department of Tanzania to eradicate child labour in the country have tried out a number of strategies from international and national efforts. Such strategies include launching of the International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) in 1992 aiming at eliminating Formal Child Labour (FCL), protecting children rights, restricting children under 15 years to work as employees (employment ordinance of 1956 and ILO convention No. 138 of 1998) and launching of three year regional project to prevent children from entering in to child labour in the year 2002. However, Child labour in Tanzania still seems to be extensive and complex to eliminated immediately (ILO, 2010). A number of families are still more affected by child labour as their children instead of schooling; they work as houseboys and house girls in urban areas and as cheap labour providers in rural areas (ILO, 2010).

Conceptually the study assumed that child labour elimination in Tanzania in spite of all the efforts made by the

government to reduce it; is determined by several interlinked variables. Thus, the level of child labour elimination was predicted to be determined by interplay of background variables (indirect influencing factors) and independent (direct influencing factors) variables. Indeed, it is true that such variables vary from one community to another and from one household to another, and this perhaps results into variation of outflow of child laboures from one community to another.



**Figure 1: conceptual framework for determinants of child labour elimination**

**2. Study Area and Methodology**

This study was conducted in two regions namely Iringa and Dar Es Salaam. Iringa region represents source regions of working children and Dar Es Salaam represents destination regions. Dar Es Salaam and Iringa regions were

purposively selected because they are among regions adversely affected by child labour problem. In Tanzania, generally Dodoma, Iringa, Njombe, Shinyanga, Morogoro, Mbeya and Singida are some of the major sources of child housekeepers (servants). Destination regions are mainly Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and Zanzibar (Kimati, 2008).

Correlation research design was adopted in this study because it allows collection of data from different groups of respondents at one point at a time (Bailey, 1994). In addition, the design offers a room to make comparisons among respondents, and see how a dependent variable relates with independent variables.

The study population included household heads (parents) and children in the sampled villages/streets. Community development officers, ward and village/street executive officers were involved. Six villages and six streets were selected randomly from the wards under the study area. Because of the existing community

awareness on the child labour issues not guaranteeing a satisfactory number of respondents if less than ten villages/streets are selected, hence, large enough sample size was required to provide reliable data putting into account representation of studied population strata (children, parents-household heads, and village/street executive officers). The total number of respondents was 478 sampled from the selected villages and streets. The sampling unit was households.

Study regions were purposefully selected, while multistage sampling was employed to obtain divisions, wards and villages to take part in the study. Also purposive sampling was applied to obtain community development workers, ward and village/street executive officers, simple random sampling technique (lottery) was applied to select school children while systematic sampling was employed to obtain household heads. The techniques were more appropriate than others are because they ensured that every member in the study population had equal chance of being sampled hence, minimised biases in

obtaining respondents. Housekeepers (servants) were obtained by referral or snowball approach. Respondents who were child labourers were visited at work places and meeting points and selected by lottery as a probability sampling technique. Primary data were collected from children (working and non-working), household heads, ward using structured interview. The information from key informants, village/street executive officers, and community development officers was obtained using a checklist.

The collected quantitative primary data were processed and verified prior to analysis using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 16 for windows) computer software. Regression analysis was done to examine factors determining child labour elimination in the study areas. The study assumed that households' characteristics determine child labour elimination. The observations were coded numeric for evacuated children from child labour and intergrated in schools as quantitative dependent variable. With regard to a stated assumption, linear regression model takes the form that,

the probability of individual household increasing child labour elimination was given as a defined set of variables described in Figure1. The general form of the analytical regression modal for child labour elimination was in a form of:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \dots + \beta_{13} X_{13} + e$$

Where:

$Y_i$  = Numeric dependent variable that takes the value of the number of evacuated children from child labour in the past 36 months

$\beta_0$  = Constant term or intercept

$\beta_1 - \beta_{13}$  = Coefficient of the respective explanatory or predictor variables

$X_1 - X_{13}$  = Predictor variables included in the model

X1 (AGERES) = Age of a respondent (years)

X2 (EDURES) = Education of respondents given by number of years in schooling

X3 (HHINCO) = Household income in TZS per month

X4 (HHSIZE) = Household size (Number of persons in households)

X5 (KCLCON) = People's knowledge/awareness on CL concepts (Index from likert scales)

X6 (COATCL) = People's attitude towards CL (Index Index from likert scales)

X7 (CKWFCL) = People's knowledge/awareness on WFCL (Index Index from likert scales)

X8 (CKCLES) = People's knowledge/awareness on CLES (Index Index from likert scales)

X9 (IMCLES) = Implementation of CLES (Index Index from likert scales)

X10 (CLLAW) = Child labour law enforcement (Index Index from likert scales)

X11 (AFPEDU) = Children accessibility to formal primary education (Index Index from likert scales)

X12 (CACLPS) = Cultural acceptance of CL as part of socialization process (Index Index from likert scales)

X13 (CLAGCS) = Children accessibility to guidance and counseling services (Index Index from likert scales)

$e$  = Random error/disturbance/residual term

Prior to regression of predictor variables using regression model, a test

of multicollinearity was done by running multivariable correlation matrix so as to avoid explanatory variables to have little variation or high intercorrelation among themselves (paired variables) (Madalla, 1988). Then regression was run in Limdep after importing data from SPSS to obtain  $R^2$  (coefficient of determination) which represented the proportion of variation in the dependent variable by the variation in the independent variables. Then regression coefficients ( $\beta$ 's) were interpreted to determine the extent of relationship of studied variables whereby the likelihood of existence of high or low child labour elimination was analysed. The dependent variable ( $Y_i$ ) was considered continuous variable with scattered responses.

### 3. Results and Discussions

Empirical results of the regression model used to identify and describe factors determining child labour elimination are summarised in Table 1. Selection of the explanatory variables included in the empirical model was based on the empirical and findings from the study areas. A test of

multicollinearity was done by running multivariable correlation matrix before regressing the independent variables using Limdep soft ware for data analysis. The correlation matrix identified variables that independently influenced elimination child labour in the study areas. Finally, 13 variables were regressed using Limdep software to obtain coefficient of determination( $R^2$ ) that represented the proportion of variation in the dependent variable by the variation in the independent variables. Then coefficients ( $\beta$ 's) were interpreted to determine the extent of relationship of regressed variables whereby the likelihood of factors determining elimination of child labour was analysed.

Findings in Table 1 reveal that, the specified multiple linear regression perfectly best fits data as measured by coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ). High value of  $R^2$  (99.9%) indicates a good predictive ability of the model, which implies that the variables included in the empirical model explain about 99.9% of the variation in the dependent

variable. Specifically, the *Akaike* (chi-square) statistic shows that the model is highly significant at 5% confidence level. Only three variables out of 13 had coefficients that were statistically insignificant with t-ratios  $\leq |2|$  or ( $P > 0.05$ ), these variables included household income (HHINCO), enforcement of child labour laws (CLLAW) and access to formal primary education (AFPEDU). The results on HHINCO concur with Rogers and Swinnerton (2004), Edmonds (2005) and Edet and Etim (2013) argument that it is not necessarily child labour to decline as household income increases, because the increase in income may not change the household decision to release children into child labour system.

**Table 1: Estimated coefficients for factors determining elimination of child labour using multiple linear regression model**

Variables	Coefficients	Standard error	t-Ratios	Significance level P[ T >t]
AGERES	-0.1343598720*	0.47370172	-2.836	0.0048
EDURES	0.5342061233*	0.21310948	2.507	0.0125
HHINCO	-0.8587420380	0.62950830	-1.364	0.1732
HHSIZE	0.3720298711*	0.24712555	15.054	0.0000
KCLCON	0.3958189038*	0.29328853	13.496	0.0000
COATCL	-0.3840410606*	0.11818739	-3.249	0.0012
CKWFCL	-0.3011691815*	0.87987577	-3.423	0.0007
CKCLES	-0.5749723146*	0.17872659	-3.217	0.0014
IMCLES	-0.1988946363*	0.88306450	-2.252	0.0248
CLLAW	0.3944424019	0.87836871	0.449	0.6536
AFPEDU	0.3747431722	0.24380171	1.537	0.1250
CACLPS	-0.1798807373*	0.25129539	-7.158	0.0000
CLAGCS	0.4800858698*	0.35226933	13.628	0.0000
Number of observations		478		
Log likelihood function		-604.2345		
Restricted Log likelihood function		-3641.4795		
R <sup>2</sup>		0.999997		
<i>Akaike</i> (Chi-square)		2.588		
Standard deviation		0.87076		
Degree of Freedom (df)		464		
Number of parameters		13		

\* = Significant at P < 0.05

Dependent variable: Number of working children evacuated from child labour and integrated in formal schools and vocational training

The results in Table 1 further showed that variables like education (*EDURES*), household size (*HHSIZE*),



knowledge/awareness on CL concepts (*KCLCON*), and children accessibility to guidance and counseling services (*CLAGCS*) were statistically significant  $t$ -ratios  $\geq |2|$  or ( $p < 0.05$ ) and positively influenced elimination of child labour in the study areas. For instance, the coefficient for child labour law enforcement had positive sign and was statistically significant at 5% probability level. This implies that the likelihood for eliminating child labour depends much on the extent to which child labour laws are enforced. Likewise, people's increase in formal education, increase in peoples knowledge on child labour concepts and improvement in children accessibility to guidance and counseling services are more likely to increase the evacuation of working children and integrate them in schools. These results concur with Ben-chendo *et al.* (2012) and Edet and Etim (2013) who observed that, provision of formal education, guidance and counseling services to children play great role in reducing children participation in child labour. Therefore, efforts on increasing household heads knowledge on CL

concepts, provision of guidance and counselling services to children have to continue and by any possible means increased in order to eliminate child labour problem.

In the aspect of services to children, ILO/IPEC (2007), Sakurai (2006) and Edet and Etim (2013) observed that a limited education service that comprises guidance to children is one of the reasons for high incidence of CL in many countries. The Child Development Policy of Tanzania also pointed out that communities have not paid proper attention in bringing up and counseling children as a result end up loitering and getting involved in unlawful acts such as hooliganism, robbery, thefts and drug abuse (URT, 1996). This means that cultural acceptance of CL as an aspect of socialization process, lack of guidance and counseling services to children and poor enforcement of laws create an environment in which children see working in hazardous, abusive and exploitative conditions as normal phenomenon to them. This indicates need to design strategies that address

child labour comprehensively by adopting child labour actors/actress that calls for involvement of all stakeholders of child labour problem, to work comprehensively in establishing functional guidance and counseling services.

The results in Table 1 also showed that, variables like age of a respondents (*AGERES*), attitude towards CL (*COATCL*), knowledge/awareness on WFCL (*CKWFCL*), knowledge/awareness on CLES (*CKCLES*), implementation of CLES (*IMCLES*) and cultural acceptance of CL as part of socialization process (*CACLPS*) were statistically significant t-ratios  $\geq |2|$  or ( $p < 0.05$ ) and negatively influenced elimination of child labour. For instance, the coefficient for cultural acceptance of CL as part of socialisation process at household had negative sign and was statistically significant at 5% probability level. This implies that, the tendency of household accepting child labour as part of socialisation process is more likely to decrease the likelihood of evacuating children from work and

integrating them in schools and vocational training. Care givers should be helped through training projects under ILO/IPEC programme not accept that child labour is part of socialisation process, since CL adversely affect social, physical, mental and psychological development of children.

The multiple coefficients of determinations ( $R^2$ ) 99.9% in table 1 revealed that, the explanatory variables accounted for 99.9% of the variation in the dependent variable in the model in the study areas. The regression coefficient allows determination of relative importance of the determining factors shown by the size of regression coefficients. Thus, critical determinants for child labour elimination in Tanzania include education, household size, community members' knowledge on Child Labour concepts, children accessibility to guidance and counselling services. Factors such as attitude towards Child Labour (CL), peoples' knowledge on the worst forms of child labour, peoples' knowledge on Child Labour Elimination Strategies

(CLES), implementation of CLES and cultural acceptance of CL as part of socialisation process also have an influence on elimination of child labour problem.

Generally, these findings imply that, the mentioned independent variables determine child labour elimination at different amount of unit change. A unit change in a particular explanatory variable result into an increase or decrease in elimination of child labour by a particular unit of change. For example, knowledge on child labour concepts with coefficient of 0.3958189038 means that a unit increase in people's awareness or knowledge on CL concepts result into increase in child labour elimination by an amount of 0.3958189038. Thus, to eliminate or reduce child labour people should have adequate knowledge on child labour concepts. Likewise, the coefficient for implementation of child labour elimination strategies - 0.1988946363 means that a unit decrease in implementation of child labour elimination strategies results into increase of children entering

labour system at amount of - 0.1988946363.

Therefore, improvement in the implementation of child labour elimination strategies is likely to minimise children entering child labour system. These findings concur with Nuhu (2001), Edmonds (2003), UNICEF (2006) and Sperling (2007) who observed that individual's ignorance and demand for cheap labour lies in sensitisation and mobilisation to help people understand the evils of child labour.

Thus, a series of variables have to be considered responsible for child labour elimination. Any interventions to eliminate or reduce child labour have to put into account of different variables influencing human practices directly or indirectly, positively and negatively.

#### **4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

There was significant correlation between community knowledge on child labour concepts and stamping out of child labour. The study concluded that the key determinants of child labour elimination include education, household size, knowledge on CL concepts, children accessibility to

guidance and counselling services, peoples' attitude towards CL, peoples' knowledge on Worst forms of child labour, peoples' knowledge on CLES, implementation of CLES and cultural acceptance of CL as part of socialisation process. It is therefore recommended that education programmes be done to ensure fully involvement of all school age Groups and employers of children be severely punished through effective enforcement of laws if they continue employing children putting aside other economic repercussions that may emerge due to stamping out of child labour in all economic and service sectors.

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