Street trading: Criminalization of girl-child and its implication toward attaining SDGs in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria

Tajudeen Adebowale Oduwole

Department of Sociology, Nigerian Army University, Biu – Nigeria.

Corresponding Email: toduwole2@gmail.com

Abstract

Involvement of Girl-child in mechanisms of household survival amidst economic brunt and its prevalent in contemporary-Nigeria and its attendant worries, call for critical review. Criminalization of Girl-child' street trading which is ill-disposed to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as championed by UN and comity of countries across the world. Therefore, the study examines street trading; criminalization of Girl-child and its implication toward attaining SDGs in Tarminus, Faringada and Dilimi, Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria. The study guided by Functionalist theory. A mixed research method (quantitative and qualitative techniques) was used to select 120 respondents within the total population of Jos metropolis. The findings revealed that girl-child involvement in street trading is demeaning academic performances, behavioural and socio-psychological development of Girl-child in Jos metropolis. This is by exposing them to substance abuse, denial of social-interactions among peers for pr meaningful association. Furthermore, poverty is seen as a major harbinger of street trading based on the disinclined economic situation in the country. However, the study asserts that, provision of basic infrastructure and employment opportunities in the rural areas will indirectly minimize youth migrating to the cities. Suffices, it will greatly reduce the unprecedented inflows of people in urban areas/cities and the need to contend for survival. Girl-child into street trading promotes underdevelopment as it distracts the children from school. It is on this premise that, it negates the aspiration and attainment of SDGs (agenda 5 and 8).

Keywords: Development, Girl-child, Poverty, SDGs, Street-trading.

1. Introduction

The doldrum of economic brunt and perhaps cultural-beliefs biases which, over the years some households still practice by cossetting their progenies to continue the chain of informal family source of livelihood without thought, perhaps been handicapped to pursue formal education. However, poverty becomes cyclical as a result of lack of money in order to enhance growth and development as preserved in sustainable development goals (SGDs) composed by comity of countries – the United Nation. The situation of most Nigerian children remains critical as a result of generic socio-economic, cultural and developmental circumstances. The line of thought of this study aligned with Yesufu

(2018) that poor household need money in order to take care of the family. Hence, the girl-child is compelled by circumstances beyond control to contribute to family income. In the long run, girl-child is at disadvantage in several ways due to their involvement in all sorts of unsafe works which affect their wellbeing. Moreover, Oduwole (2020) further asserted that, the discourse *development* is a multiplicity social concept which torches every aspect of human existence without any prejudices to race, coloration, ethnics, clans, tribe, physiological compositions or and both material and non-material object. Onuzulike (2019) grouped the drawbacks of street trading by girl-child into three, namely: Physical, Psychological and

Social. Physical consequences include: accidents, spread of communicable diseases, food poisoning and traffic congestion. While, psychological consequences of girl- child into street trading include: stress, fatigue, depression, anger and resultant ills. Also, the social implications include: unwanted pregnancies, prostitution, smoking, robbery, truancy and poor academic performance, to mentioned few. Meanwhile, the economies of the developing countries are plagued with developmental challenges. This often translate to deteriorating standard of living of the citizenry. However, and most especially those in informal sector device all sort of means for their livelihood. One of such is street trading which, is the most noticeable form of informal economic activity across developing countries. Adide (2018) asserts that this form of undertakings may account for up to 70% of urban-surge for survival in Nigeria and has become a source of income for many households who are not engaged in white-collar jobs. Uchenna (2018) added that, the Girl-child into street trading suffers education laxity. No time to rest and study. Many at times the girl- child returns from school eat food (if available) change cloths and dash to the market or street to sell. For such children, the end product is poor academic performance and subsequently drop out of school and this could translate to delinquent behaviour and criminality. Also, street trading often leads to child trafficking across and outside Nigeria. In line with the above summation, the wake-up call is to understudy the problematic of the discourse in the study area. Thus, the paper is aimed to examine street trading, its prevalence, and to what extent street trading led to criminalization of Girl-child in Jos Metropolis.

2. Review of Related Literature
Street Trading and Criminalization

Street trading is a phenomenon which allegedly is linked to poverty and underdevelopment in the economies of developing countries after the transition to an industrial economy. The literature revealed that the fast and uncontrollable rate of urbanization is a major global concern that many planners and development experts have to grabble with. This problem is more felt and obvious in the developing countries of the world due to the high rate of rural urban drift. Globally, the trend of human population growth in the cities have been viewed with serious concern, especially, the resultant effect on the quality of life and environment. It is a common knowledge that life in the cities has become very expensive largely due to the high rate of urbanization (Acheampong,2019).

Street Trading and criminalization on Girl-child's Development

Nigeria is the most populous African country with rapid urbanization where greater proportion of youth below the age of 25 encounter alarming unemployment while those with low education engage in menial jobs for survival. (Alarima, 2019). Undoubtedly, unemployment, poverty, inflation, poor school performance, unstable families, peer group influence, large family size and parental care have been ascribed to the incidence of street trading in Nigeria. Alfred (2020) viewed the following as the effects of street trading by Girl-child:

• A child who shares the school time with street trading is always late to school and he/she is bound to develop naiveties in school work which may include poor studying habits, lack of skills, low self-esteem and low performance in class hence resulting in failure or total drop out of school.

• Some children at the end of the day will not be able to cope with both schooling and street trading, hence they do drop out of school. • Many children that are into street trading, may eventually become under achievers or might develop school phobia.
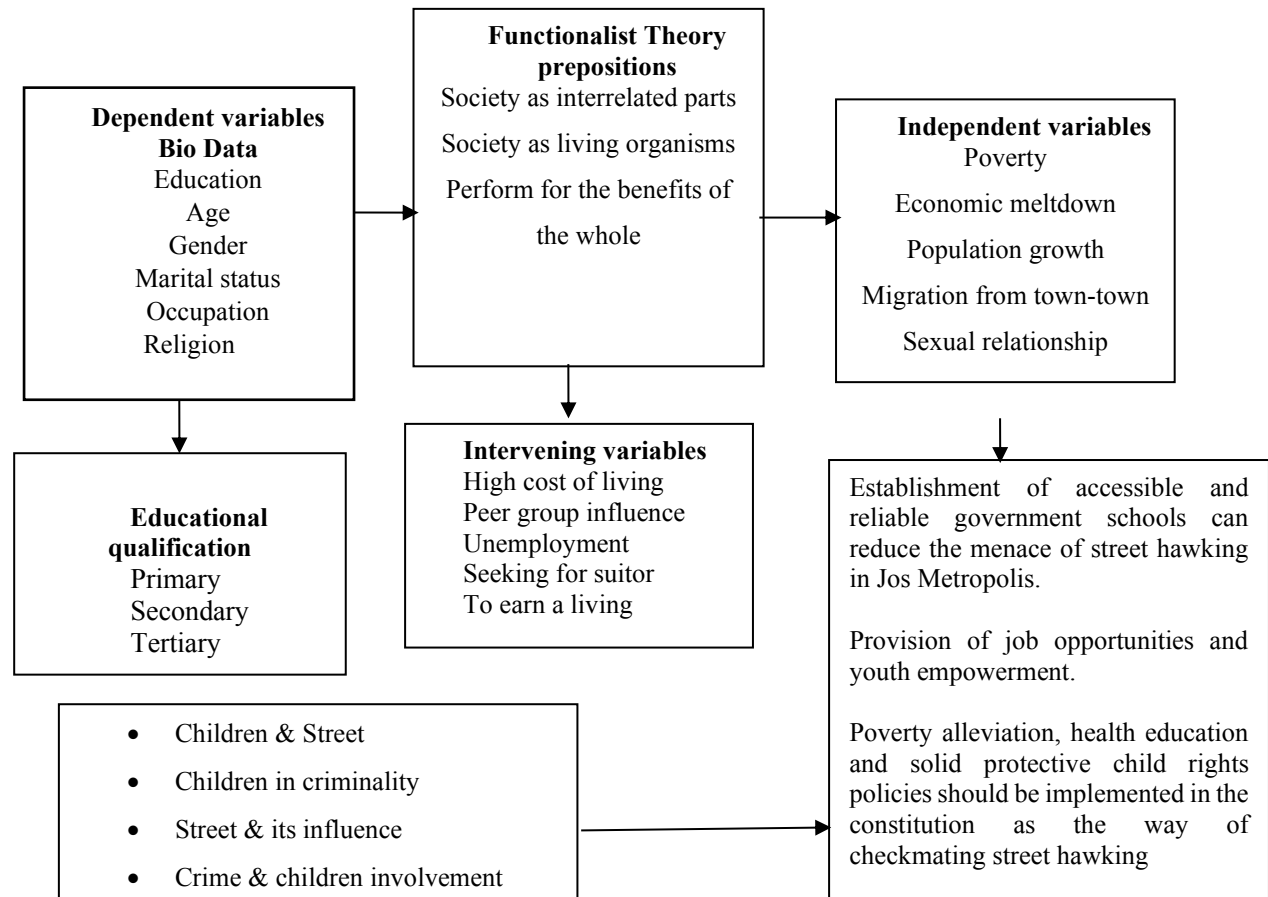

Figure 1: The Conceptual Framework

As shown in Figure 1, the diagram is designed to briefly explain the conceptual framework of Structural Functionalism as advocated by Talcott Parsons. Functionalist theory which is based on the assumptions that the society is just like living organism with all the parts has role to perform for the benefit and the existence of the whole.

Theoretical Orientation

This study adopted Functionalist theory as offered by Talcott Parsons (1920). The theory viewed society as a system, that is, a set of interconnected parts, which form a whole as basic unit of analysis of the society, and its various parts are understood

primarily in terms of their relationship to the whole. The early functionalist often draws in an analogy between society and an organism such as the human body. Arguably, that an understanding of any organ in the body such as the heart, lungs, involves an understanding of its relationship to other organs and, in particular, its contribution towards the maintenance of the organism. In the same way, an understanding of any part of the society requires an analysis of its relationship to other part and more importantly, its contribution to the maintenance of the society. Thus, social institution such as family, economy, religion etc. are analyzed as part of the social system rather than isolated units. In particular, they understood with reference to the contributions they make to the system as a whole. From the above explanation of the functionalist perspective, the family will be considered as a focal point to this study, how its relationship with other part and how the economy institution affects the Girl-child. Parsons (1968) assert that a change in one part, elicits reaction from other parts or institutions. That is, any major structural change in social system always involves strain and disorganization of the system. Connotatively, the plight of Girl-child into street trading in Nigeria and Jos metropolis specifically can be attributed to a dysfunction in some of the constituting organs of the society. First it is worthy of note that culture has played a vital role in this process. The cultural beliefs of most ethnic groups in Nigeria treating the child or seeing the children as mere properties of their operant, contributed a lot to the rise and increase in number of Girl-child into street trading in Jos metropolis. Also, there are social factors which can be seen as cause of girl- child in to street trading in Jos metropolis. The rapid population growth in the metropolis, high rate of unemployment, inflation, low wages and deplorable working conditions of parents have contributed a lot to the incidents of street

trading and Girl- child involvement in the metropolis in an attempt to help and support their families. This is tantamount to child labour. The term "child labour" is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, potential and dignity, which is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children and/or interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. The worst forms of child labour involve children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and / or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities (International Labour Organization, 2020).

3. Methodology

The target population of the study constitutes the Girl-child aged between 6-20 years and their parent aged between 30 - 50 years. The study is purposive. The population was considered because the researcher needs better knowledge on the phenomenon under study. The sample size for this study is One hundred and twenty (120). Out of the 120 questionnaires, a total of eighty (80) were distributed to Girl-child, while forty (40) were distributed to their parent. The justification for the selection of sample size is the difficulty involved in selecting the whole population. The sample size was also representative of the population and can be generalized due to the sampling method adopted. There are 14 wards in Jos North Local Government Area. Abba Na Shehu, Ali Kazaure, Gangare, Garba Daho, Ibrahim Katsina, Jenta Adamu, Jenta Apata, Jos Jarawa, Narakuta "A", Narakuta "B", sarkin arab, Tudun wada, Tafawa Balewa. In order to ensure adequate representation of the population, probability sampling techniques was

adopted. The stratified sampling in particular, the study opted, because it gave room for equal representation and participation of the population for the study. In using the simple random sampling, first of all a sample frame was constructed. Secondly, the sample size was determined. Thirdly, place a number of pieces of paper with the names of each ward in a container with the numbers that corresponded with the sample frame. Fourthly, it was shuffled very well and one paper was selected from the container at a time and it is been registered. This process continued until the required numbers of wards were selected. In the course of the research, the multi stage cluster sampling technique was adopted. This method of sampling was adopted because it was difficult to compile an exhaustive list of the total population. The multi stage cluster sampling technique and simple random sampling technique was used for the selection of respondents. A representative sample of One hundred and twenty (120) respondents were randomly selected from the four (4) wards. In each of the wards, a total number of thirty (30) questionnaires were distributed to respondents and this amounted to one hundred and twenty (120) questionnaires distributed to the respondents i.e. eighty (80) questionnaire for the Girl-child and forty (40) questionnaire to their parents. The researcher was aided with the help of two trained assistants, who were in charge of distribution and collection of the questionnaires after completion.

4. Results and Discussion
The quantitative data elicit from the field through questionnaires was analyzed through a simple frequency table and percentage. Thereafter, the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used for presentation and analysis of data so as to explain at a glance the degree of occurrence of one variable in relation to the other.

Table 1

Socio-demographic characteristics of parents of girl-child into street trading (the Respondents)

Items	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Sex:				
Male	70	63.6	63.6	63.3
Female	40	36.4	36.4	100
Total	**110**	**100%**	**100%**	
Age Category				
18 – 24	40	36.4%	36.4%	36.4%
25 – 34	30	27.3%	27.3%	63.7%
35 – 44	20	18.2%	18.2%	81.9%
45 and above	20	18.2%	18.2%	100%
Total	**110**	**100%**	100%	
Occupation				
Business	20	18.2%	18.2%	18.2%

Items	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Civil servant	40	36.3%	36.3%	54.5%
Farmers	20	18.2%	18.2%	72.7%
Students	30	27.3%	27.3%	100%
Unemployed	0	0%	0%	
Total	**110**	**100%**	100%	
Marital Status				
Single	60	54.5%	54.5%	54.5%
Married	40	36.4%	36.4%	90.9%
Divorced	10	9.1%	9.1%	100%
Total	**110**	**100%**	100%	
Religion				
Muslim	70	63.6%	63.6%	63.6%
Christian	40	36.4%	36.4%	100%
Others	0	0%	0%	
Total	**110**	**100**	100%	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

As shown in Table1, the demographic of the respondents in which 70 accounting for 63.6% of the respondents are male, 40 representing 36.4% are female. This shows that majority of the respondents are male. Moreover, the table also shows that 40 accounting for 36.4% of the respondent are within the age of 18 – 24, 30 representing 27.3% are within 25 – 34, 20 accounting for 18.2% are within 35 – 44 while 45 and above have a frequency of 20 (18.2%). Furthermore, the table shows that 20 representing 18.2% of the respondents are business men/women, 40 representing 36.3% are civil servant, 20 accounting for 18.2% are farmers, 30 representing 27.3% are students while none of the respondents are unemployed. The table also shows that 60 representing 54.5% of the respondents are single, 40 accounting for 36.4% are married while only 10 representing 9.1% of the respondents are divorced. On religion of the respondents the table shows that 70 accounting for 63.6% of the respondents are Muslim, 40 representing 36.4% of the respondents are Christian while none of the respondents are with the option others. This shows that majority of the respondents are Muslim.

Table 2
The Prevalence of girl-child into street trading in Jos Metropolis

Items	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Who are mostly involved in street trading in Jos Metropolis?				
Poor	90	81.8%	81.8%	81,8%
Middle class	20	18.2%	18.2%	100%
Rich	0	0%	0%	
Total	**110**	**100%**	100%	
Which Gender mostly dominate street trading in Jos metropolis?				
Male	50	45.5%	45.5	45.5
Female	60	54.5%	54.5	100
Total	**110**	**100%**	100	
Do you have child or relation engage in street trading in Jos Metropolis?				
Yes	80	72.7%	72.7	72.7
No	30	27.3%	27.3	100
Total	**110**	**100%**	100	
How do you assess the behaviors of girl- child into street trading in Jos metropolis?				
Good	20	18.2%	18.2	18.2
Bad	70	63.6%	63.6	81.8
Undecided	20	18.2%	18.2	100
Total	**110**	**100%**	100	
How common is girl-child into street trading in Jos metropolis				
Very common	50	45.5%	45.5	45.5
Common	40	36.3%	36.3	
Not common	20	18.2%	18.2	81.8
Total	**110**	**100**	100	100
Would you say incident of girl- child into street trading is high in Jos metropolis?				

Items	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Yes	70	63.6%	63.6	63.6
No	40	36.4%	36.4	
				100
Total	**110**	**100**		

Source: Field Survey, 2023

As shown in Table 2 shows the prevalence of girl- child into street trading in Jos metropolis. The table indicates that the category of people mostly involved in street trading (the girl-child) in Jos metropolis, poor have 90 accounting for 81.8% of the respondents, 20 representing 18.2% of the respondents select middle class and none of the respondents choose rich. This result shows that poor are the most people involved in girl-child into street trading in Jos metropolis. Moreover, on the gender mostly dominated street trading in Jos metropolis, male have 50 accounting for 45.5% of the respondents while female 60 representing 54.5% of the respondents. This shows that female(girl-child) is the most gender found in street trading in Jos metropolis. The table also shows that 80 accounting for 72.7% of the respondents have child or relation trading in Jos metropolis while 30 accounting for 27.3% of the respondents don't. This result shows

that majority of the respondents have relation trading in Jos metropolis. On the assessment of the behaviors of girl-child trading in Jos metropolis, 20 accounting for 18.2% of the respondent's assessment considered it good, 70 representing 63.6% of the respondent's assessment considered it bad while 20 accounting for 18.2% of the respondents are undecided. This result shows that most of the girl-child into street trading in Jos metropolis have bad behaviors. The table also shows that 50 accounting for 45.5% of the respondent rate girl-child into street trading to be very common in Jos metropolis, 40 representing 36.3% common and 20 accounting for 18.2% not common. Moreover, on whether incident of girl-child into street trading is high in Jos metropolis 70 representing 63.6% of the respondent select yes, 40 representing 36.4% of the respondents select no. This result shows that the incident of girl-child into street trading is high in Jos Metropolis.

Table 3
Extent to which street trading led to crime in Jos metropolis

Items	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Girl-child in Jos metropolis don't have the opportunity to play because of involvement in street trading.				
Agree	40	36.4%	36.4	36.4
Disagree	50	45.5%	45.5	81.9
Undecided	20	18.2%		
			18.2	100
Total	**110**	**100%**	**100%**	

Items	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Parent in Jos metropolis used their children to earn money depriving them their right to school.				
Agree	60	54.5%	54.5%	54.5%
Disagree	40	36.4%	36.4%	90.9%
Undecided	10	9.1%	91.1%	100%
Total	**110**	**100%**	100%	
Girl-child who engage in street trading perform academically poor in Jos.				
Agree	80	72.7%	72.2%	72.2%
Disagree	20	18.2%	18.2%	90.9%
Undecided	10	9.1%		
			9.1%	100%
Total	**110**	**100%**	100%	
The socio-psychological development of children is adversely affected by street trading.				
Agree	70	63.6%	63.6%	63.6%
Disagree	20	18.2%	18.2%	
Undecided	20	18.2%	18.2%	81.8%
				100%
Total	**110**	**100%**	100%	
Child's general development is negatively affected by street trading in Jos metropolis.				
Agree	80	72.7%	72.7%	72.7%
Disagree	10	9.1%	9.1%	
Undecided	20	18.2%	18.2%	81.8%
				100%
Total	**110**	**100**	100%	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

As shown in Table 3 which present result on the extent to which street trading negatively affect children in Jos metropolis. 40 representing 36.4% of the respondents agreed that children in Jos metropolis don't have the opportunity to play because of street trading, 50 accounting for 45.5% of the respondents disagree, 20 representing 18.2% are undecided. The table also shows that 60 representing 54.5% of the respondents agreed that parent in Jos metropolis used their children to earn money depriving them their right to school,

40 accounting for 36.4% disagree while 10 representing 9.1% of the respondents are undecided. This result shows that parent in Jos metropolis used their children to earn money depriving them their right to school. The table also shows that 80 accounting for 72.7% of the respondents agreed that children who engage in street trading perform academically poor in Jos, 20 representing 18.2% of the respondents disagree while 10 accounting for 9.1% are undecided. This result shows that children who engage in street trading perform academically poor in Jos. Furthermore, the table shows that 70 representing 63.6% of the respondents agreed that the socio-psychological development of children is adversely affected by involvement in street trading, 40 accounting for 36.4% of the respondent are disagree and undecided respectively. Also 80 accounting for 72.7% of the respondents agreed that child's general development is negatively affected by street trading in Jos metropolis, 10 accounting for 9.1% disagree while 20 representing 18.2% of the respondents are undecided.

Table 4

Likely Solution to the problem of street trading and criminalization in Jos metropolis

Items	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Government should barn the Girl-child street trading in Jos metropolis.				
Agree	90	81.8%	81.8%	81.8%
Disagree	10	9.1%	9.1%	90.9%
Undecided	10	9.1%	9.1%	
				100%
Total	**110**	**100%**	100%	
Parents should be enlightened on the consequences of girl-child street trading on their children/family.				
Agree	80	72.7%	72.7%	72.7%
Disagree	20	18.2%	18.2%	82.2%
Undecided	10	9.1%	9.1%	90.9%
Total	**110**	**100%**	100%	
Establishment of accessible and reliable government schools can reduce the menace of girl-child street trading in Jos metropolis**.**				
Agree	90	81.8%	81.8%	81.8%
Disagree	10	9.1%	9.1%	90.9%

Items	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Undecided	10	9.1%	9.1%	100%
Total	**110**	**100%**	100%	
Provision of job opportunities and youth empowerment programs would decrease the prevalence of girl-child street trading.				
Agree	100	90.9%	90.9%	90.9%
Disagree	10	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%
Undecided	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	**110**	**100%**	100%	
Poverty alleviation, health education and solid protective child right policies should be implemented in the constitution as way of checkmating street trading.				
Agree	70	63.6%	63.6%	63.6%
Disagree	30	27.3%	27.3%	90.9%
Undecided	10	9.1%	9.1%	100%
Total	**110**	**100**	100%	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

As shown in Table 4 above shows solution to the problems of street trading in Jos metropolis, it indicated that 90 accounting for 81.8% of the respondents agreed that government should barn street trading in Jos metropolis, 20 accounting for 18.2% of the respondents are disagree and undecided respectively. This result shows that there is need for government to barn the girl-child street trading in Jos metropolis. The table also shows that 80 accounting for 72.7% of the respondents agreed that parent should be enlighten on the consequences of street trading on their children/family, 20 accounting for 18.2% of the respondents disagree, while 10 representing 9.1% of the

respondents are undecided. This result shows that there is need to enlighten parents on the consequences of street trading on their children/family. Furthermore, the table shows that 90 accounting for 81.8% of the respondents agreed that establishment of accessible and reliable government schools can reduce the menace of girl-child street trading in Jos metropolis, 20 representing 18.2% of the respondents are disagree and undecided respectively. This result shows that there is need for government to make schools accessible and reliable to poor citizens. The table also shows that 100 accounting for 90.9% of the respondents agreed that provision of job opportunities and youth empowerment

programs would decrease the prevalence of girl-child street trading, 10 accounting for 9.1% of the respondents disagree. This result shows that provision of job opportunities and youth empowerment programs would decrease the prevalence of girl-child street trading. Lastly the table shows that 70 accounting for 63.6% of the respondents agree that poverty alleviation, health education and solid protective girl-child right policies should be implemented in the constitution as way of checkmating street trading, 30 accounting for 27.3% of the respondents disagree while 10 accounting for 9.1% of the respondents are undecided.

Summarily, the study revealed that poor people are the most involved in girl-child street trading and its criminalization in Jos metropolis. The study also uncovers that female are the most gender found in street trading in Jos metropolis. The study also uncovers that most of the girl-child involving in street trading in Jos metropolis have loss values and virtues. This aligned with the assertion of Afusat (2018) that the involvement of children on the street trading is exposed to malnutrition, respiratory tract infection, mental illness and substance abuse and the young female hawkers are also vulnerable to all forms of violence including sexual exploitation by men and other vices which often translate to social- menace.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations
Based on the findings of the study, it is revealed that girl-child engaging in street trading demeaning academic performances, behavioural and socio-psychological development of children in Jos metropolis. This is by exposing them to substance abuse, not allowing them time to play, visit their mates for progressive and meaningful social-interaction. Rather, street trading exposes them to armed robbery, kidnapping, prostitution and wayward lifestyle, etc. Furthermore, poverty is seen as a major harbinger of street trading based

on the disinclined economic situation in the country. However, the study asserts that, provision of basic infrastructure and employment opportunities in the rural areas will indirectly minimize youth migrating to the cities.

References
Afusat 2018) The Dilemma of Managing the Challenges of Street Vending in Public Spaces: The Case of Enugu City, Nigeria. www.wiego.org

Alarima, C. I. (2019). Factors influencing rural-urban migration of youths in Osun State. *Nigeria. Agro-Science, 17(3), 34-*

Alfred, E. (2020). Perceived effects of street hawking on the well-being of children. Retrieved from www.researchgate.net.on 30/05/2020

Acheampong A.O (2019). An evaluation of the contribution of the informal sector in employment and income generation in Nigeria: Thematic approach. Management, 1(2).

Lambu, I. B. (2018). An Assessment and Mapping of Street Hawking in Kano State, Nigeria.https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327040585_An_assessment_and_mapping_of_street_hawking_in_Kano_state_Nigeria [retrieved on March 6, 2022]

Oduwole, T.A & Isiah, S.A (2020). Culture and Society in Ingredients of Sociology, Themes & Paradigms edited by Elias Olukorede Wahab and Amit Bhowmick. Serials Publications PVT Ltd, New Delhi, India. ISBN: 978-81-945563-1-2.

Onuzulike, A. D (2019). Gender Differences in Knowledge and attitudes towards Child Street hawking among rural Resident Parents in Yakubu, J. A. Morohunkola, O. A; & Sokoya, G. O. (Eds). The Abused and The

Society: Royal People Nigeria Ltd, Ibadan Nigeria. p. 136 – 147.

Uchenna, U. (2018). Street selling phenomenon in Nigeria. Retrieved fromhttps://afribary.con>works>ca uses

Yesufu (2018). Street Trading as an Aspect of Child Abuse and Neglect (A case Study of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria). Unpublished Master of Science Dissertation. University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.