

**UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA**

**EXPLORING WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN COCOA  
PRODUCTION IN THE AMENFI WEST DISTRICT**



**BENEDICT ADDAE**

**2016**

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**8140230007**

**A THESIS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES, FACULTY OF  
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**OCTOBER, 2016**

## DECLARATION

### STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I, Benedict Addae, declare that this Dissertation, with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been identified and duly acknowledged, is entirely my own original work, and it has not been submitted, either in part or whole, for another degree elsewhere.

SIGNATURE: .....

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### SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this work was supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of Dissertation as laid by the University of Education, Winneba.

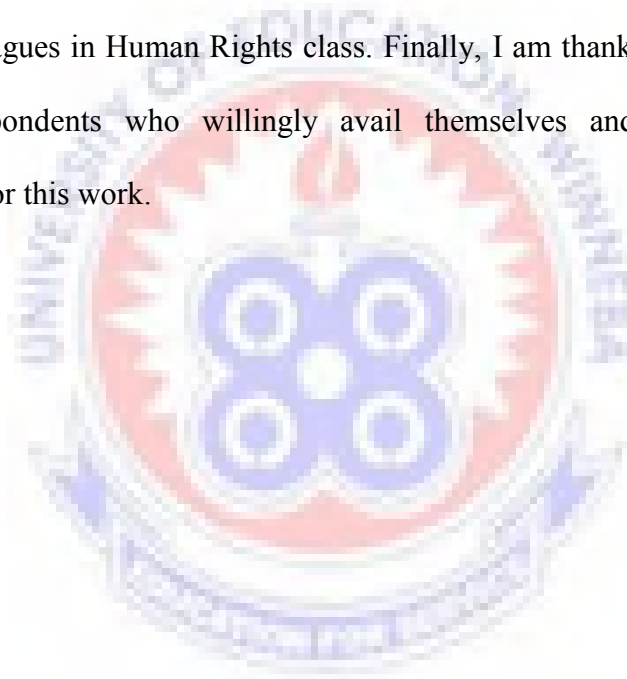
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## **DEDICATION**

I humbly dedicate this work to my parents, Mr Benedict Nana Addae and Eunice Adjei, my siblings, and my able wife Sheila Awuni for their support.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
DEDICATION	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	xi
ABSTRACT	xiii
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.1.1 Child Labour in Ghana	2
1.2 Statement of the Problem	8
1.3 Purpose of the Study	9
1.4 Objectives of the Study	9
1.5 Research Questions	10
1.6 Significance of the Study	10
1.7 Delimitation of the Study	11
1.8 Organisation of the Study	11

<b>CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>13</b>
2.0 Introduction	13
2.1 The Concept of Human Rights	13
2.2 Concept of Child Labour	14
2.2.1 Worst Forms of Child Labour	16
2.3 The United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	19
2.4 African Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)	23
2.5 National Legal and Institutional Framework of Child Labour and its Worst Forms	26
2.5.1 The Ghanaian Constitution on Child Labour and its Worst Form	27
2.5.2 Children's Act of Ghana 1998 (Act 560)	27
2.5.3 Ghana's Labour Act 2003 (Act 651)	29
2.5.4 National Programme for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour	29
2.6 Conceptual Framework	34
2.7.1 Prevalence of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana	41
2.7.2 Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa Production in Ghana	43
2.8.2. Impact of Child Labour and its Worst Forms	49
2.9. Social Intervention Programme/Policies to Combat WFCL in Cocoa	52
2.9.1 Ghana School Feeding Programme	52
2.9.2 National Health Insurance Scheme	53
2.9.3 Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)	54

<b>CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>55</b>
3.0 Introduction	55
3.1 Research Design	55
3.2 Population of the Study	56
3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique	57
3.4 Data Collection Instrument	58
3.4.1 Interview Guide	58
3.4.2 Observation Schedule	59
3.5 Data Collection Procedure	60
3.6 Data Analysis	61
3.7 Ethical Considerations	61
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND FINDINGS</b>	<b>62</b>
4.1 Demographic Profile of Participants	62
4.2 Ages of Children	63
4.3 Gender Distribution of the Children	64
4.4: Educational Background of Children	65
4.5 Origin of Children	66
4.6 The Nature of Work Children Do	66
4.8 Experiences of Children Engaging in WFCL in Cocoa	72
4.9 Have Human Rights Interventions and legislation Directed at WFCL in Cocoa Succeeded.	74
4.10 Marital Status of Parents	78
4.11 Educational Background of Children's Parents	78



<b>CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS</b>	<b>80</b>
5.1 The Nature of Work Children do on the Cocoa Farm	80
5.2 Factors Influencing the Worst Forms of Child Labour in AWD	86
5.2.1 Poverty	87
5.2.1.2 Parent`s Occupation and Low Educational Background	92
5.2.1.3 Children as Debt Bondage	94
5.2.2 Ignorance of Parents and Children on the Effect of Worst Forms of Child Labour on Children.	96
5.2.3 Cheap Labour	98
5.2.4 Continuation of Family Business	100
5.3 Experiences of Children in WFCL	102
<b>CHAPTER SIX: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>118</b>
6.0 Introduction	118
6.1 Summary of Findings	118
6.1.1 The Nature of Work Children Do	119
6.1.2 Factors Influencing the WFCL in Cocoa in Amenfi West District	120
6.1.3 Experiences of Children Engaging in WFCL	120
6.1.4 The Extent of the Success of Human Rights Intervention	121
6.2 Limitations	122
6.3 Conclusion	122
6.4 Recommendation	124
REFERENCES	126
APPENDIX A	138
APPENDIX B	140
APPENDIX C	142

## LIST OF TABLE

<b>TABLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Table 1: Permissible Work for Children in Cocoa and Recommendations	33
Table 4.1: The Age Distribution of Children	64
Table 4.2: Gender Distribution of Children	65
Table 4.3: Level at which pupils drop out of School	66
Table 4.4: Nature of Activities on Cocoa Farms	68
Table 4.5: Working Hours of Children	69
Table 4.6: Push factors for the WFCL	72
Table 4.7: Marital Status of Children's Parents	78
Table 5.1 Why Children Work in the Amenfi West District	88



## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>FIGURE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Figure 1: Activities Considered as Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa Production	32
Figure 2: A Model Conceptual Framework Showing the Relationship of Duty Base and Rights Base Attitude in the Practice of Child Labour and its Worst Forms.	35
Figure4.1: Percentage Distribution of Participants	63



## **ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS**

ACRWC:	Africa Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child
AWD:	Amenfi West District
CCLM:	Community-Based Child Labour Monitoring
CRC:	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CCPCs:	Community Child Protection Committees
CHRAJ:	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
COCOBOD:	Ghana Cocoa Board
DA:	District Assembly
DCI:	Defense for Children
DCPC:	District and Community Child Protection Committee
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
GHS:	Ghana Health Service
GLSS	Ghana Living Standards Survey
GLSS:	Ghana Living Standard Survey
GSS:	Ghana Statistical Service
ICESCR:	International Covenant on Economic, Social, Cultural Rights
IITA:	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
ILO:	International Labour Organisation
IPEC:	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
JHS:	Junior High School
LEAP:	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
MMYE:	Ministry of Manpower Youth and Employment
MOFEP:	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
NCCE:	National Commission on Civil Education

NDPC:	National Development Planning Commission
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHIA:	National Health Insurance Authority
NPECLC:	National Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour
NSC:	National Steering Committee
OPD:	Out-Patients Department
OVC:	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
UDHR:	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN:	United Nation
UNCRC:	United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF:	United Nation Children, Education Fund
UN-MDG:	United Nation Millennium Development Goal
WFCL:	Worst Forms of Child Labour

## **ABSTRACT**

The Worst Forms of Child Labour is regarded as one of the most serious problems of human rights violations in the contemporary world. This study was conducted in three cocoa farming communities in the Amenfi West District namely Koduakrom, Wasenma Camp and Mmrakrom. The study aimed at exploring the phenomenon of Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in cocoa production. The objectives of the study were, to identify the nature of WFCL in cocoa farms, identify factors that push children into WFCL in these communities, describe the experiences of children working under WFCL and to explore the extent of success of human rights interventions on the practice of WFCL in the cocoa farms in the Amenfi West District. Thirty respondents were purposefully sampled for the study, comprising eighteen children, four parents, three employers and five stakeholders implementing and monitoring child rights protection. Interview and observation were used as instruments for collecting the data. The study revealed that, children from Koduakrom and Mmrakrom communities have not received child rights education and were involved in preparation of land for plantation, and used dangerous tools and agro-chemicals on cocoa farms and work long hours beyond the permissible hours. It was gathered that the nature of work posed a threat to the psychological, emotional, physical and developmental growth of children, therefore the work constituted WFCL, an abuse of children rights. Children from Wansema Camp have received human rights education on the effects of children practicing worst forms of labour. The results further showed that communities that have received human rights interventions have successfully eliminated WFCL. It is recommended that the government and District Assemblies should commit some financial resources in curbing WFCL in communities that have not received human rights interventions.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background to the Study**

Child labour is an old phenomenon (Grimsrud & Melchior, 1997), and has received a global recognition for the past decades with much concern to put an end to the practice. ILO-IPEC (2003a) opined that children aged six or seven, may be helping their parents in the home to perform household chores and running errands, where they learn jobs such as trading, farming, fishing and others as a kind of training on the rudiments of the job. Child labour in developing countries, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America is pervasive comparable to most developed countries which seem to effectively curb the situation (Tuttle, 1999).

In the mid-20th century, international discussion began for the elimination of child labour practice which is desired to prevent and protect children from physical, mental and cognitive development. The 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights sets forth human rights as the basic rights and freedoms that all human beings are entitled to without distinction of any kind, such as race, sex, language, colour, and religion, national or social origin. Human rights are conceived as universal, interrelated and egalitarian, which gives all people equal rights by virtue of being human. If child rights and development are politically prioritized the basic needs and rights will be enhanced which will address child labour and its worst forms.

To clamour for these concerns, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) designed a Convention that establishes 15 years as the minimum age for employment (Convention 138). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is recognized as a universally agreed document that is non-negotiable. Its

standards and obligations are to foster children's rights and also to help meet their fundamental needs (UNICEF, 2013). These fundamental needs of the children should be spelt out and incorporated into local laws and policies of government in various countries. According to a report by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2007), over 215 million children worldwide are child labourers and among them 152 million are under the age of 15, and 115 million are engaging in dangerous activities.

According to Ray (2000), not all forms of child labour are detrimental, some help shape the attitude of children in their upbringing to fit into the society. In this respect, the emphasis on child labour is heavily concentrated on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, which expose the child to hazardous and psychological stress, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour. This led to the establishment of the International Labour Organization Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in 1999 to prohibit these forms of child labour (Convention, 182).

The adoption of the 1999 ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182, seeking to eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour, has been set as the priority of national and international action toward the total abolition of child labour (ILO. Report, 1999).

### **1.1.1 Child Labour in Ghana**

According to a survey by the Ghana Statistical Service (2013), 33 percent of Ghana's population of 26,347,424 million is made up of people aged 5 – 17 years (that is 8,697,602), of which 31 percent of the children between 5 – 17 years (representing 2,692,435) are engaged in economic activities. The survey also points out that 18.3 percent of the urban children participating in economic activities preceding the survey



compared to 42.4 percent in the rural areas, where farming is predominant, especially cocoa production.

In Ghana children work all their life at an early stage and from age five children are expected to perform house chores, go to farms, sell and do other things to supplement the family income. Agyei-Bieni (2005: 73) is of the view that, the home is run by the combined efforts of all members of the family in the form of division of labour to sustain the family.

Children in Ghana are expected to do house chores to build their capacity. However, most children are exploited by parents, families and bondage homes to the extent that they see no benefit in the work they do, but rather suffer at the expense of their education, health, and developmental growth.

Gayathri and Chaudhri (2002) are of the view that, allowing children to work is part of growing up in consonance with family values and structures. This resonates with the Ghanaian assumption that, child work contributes to the well-being of the family. Some child work includes light work or chores that ascertain the child's learning ability and the building of mental and cognitive development. In the rural environment child work includes agricultural activities, which is often combined with schooling. In this respect, when the work turns to child labour, academic instructional time is used to work with these children, this takes away the child's academic development. Ofofu-Kusi (2005) is of the view that, the alternate time children use for working deprives them of opportunity of accessing education and so violates the rights of children under the UNCRC. In this vein Ghana, by ratifying the ILO Convention 138 and 182 in 1978 and 1999 respectively seeks to promote child rights.

According to the Convention No.182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, Article 3(a), of the ILO, the term the Worst Forms of Child Labour refers to all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. Article 3 (d) goes a step further to include hazardous work as one of the four categories of worst forms which states that work “work which, by its nature or circumstance in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children” does not allow exceptions and prohibits children from being engaged in these type of work. Therefore, any work that is considered as a form of slavery, forced labour and detrimental to the child should not be entertained.

In Ghana the case of cocoa farming is a socio-cultural activity; school- going children help their parents in the cocoa farms early morning before school, after school and on weekends and holidays (MMYE, 2008). However, research indicates a continual involvement of children in cocoa activities such as spraying of cocoa, carrying loads, machete use are hazardous to the development of the child (Casely- Hayford 2007, Odonkor 2007). As part of children helping their parents in the cocoa farms, certain injurious activities performed by these children are considered to be in the worst form. More so, some children are kept in debt bondage or in slavery, which are classified as the worst forms under the United Nations Convention 182.

According to Diane Mull, Executive Director of International Initiative for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in 2003, most Ghanaian rural children and young people were major contributors to the cocoa production workforce, the majority of which were younger than age 14 and exposed to hazardous occupational exposures, including

strenuous work, use of sharp tools and pesticide application and the lack of training in proper safety practices and adequate personal protective equipment. These children are subjected to injuries and illness, including musculoskeletal disorders, sprains, and strains, laceration to the head fractures, eye injuries, and rashes and coughing (IITA, 2003).

The activities that children do on the cocoa farms include clearing the land, tree cutting, applying pesticides, spreading fertilizer, harvesting pods, gathering, pod breaking, transporting fermented beans and the drying of cocoa beans (IITA, 2002). In all these, Ghana has committed itself to ratify international Conventions and laws that prohibit child labour such as the Minimum Age Convention, the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, the Convention on the Right of the Child and the Africa Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child which categorically protect children from all forms of economic exploitation and from performing any task that is likely hazardous or to interfere with the child's educational, mental, physical and cognitive development.

Ghana has put in place numerous laws and institutions to facilitate child rights and protection including the following:

- The 1992 Constitution of Ghana Article 28(2) fosters or guarantees the protection of children from performing any work that is hazardous and poses threat to the health, education, physical and social development and included Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education and secondary education and its different forms made accessible and progressively free (Article 25).
- The 1998 Children's Act (ACT, 560) was instituted to protect the rights of the child in Ghana. The rights of the child to access quality health care, education

and shelter are ensured, whereas it also seeks to prohibit the use of the child in exploitative labour. The Children's Act prescribes child panels to be set in all districts in the country, to adjudicate and resolve cases involving children.

- The Labour Act of 2003 (ACT, 651) provides protection for children in the engagement or employment of work likely to expose the person to physical or moral hazard.
- Ghana seeking to address the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the laws of the Convention 182 have been mainstreamed into national institutions to regulate child labour in the cocoa growing communities.
- The National Programme for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in the cocoa production (NPECLC) as created in 2006 to tackle and develop implementation interventions to eliminate Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL).
- The National Steering Committee on child labour was established to coordinate all child labour elimination programmes in Ghana. The committee comprises of institutions and individuals, department and agencies to offer policy advice on the measures to eliminate child labour in short and long term (MMYE, 2008)

Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS (6)) report indicates that 20.1 percent of children between 5-17 years who are currently attending school were in child labour, it also estimates that 12.4 percent of them were engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. Children not attending school estimate 35.4 percent and were involved in child labour, among them were 28.3 percent engaging in hazardous forms of child labour. Children work in various sectors of labour which includes cracking of stones, fishing, mining and farming (Ghana Statistical Service, 2012).

Despite the fact that some children lack the basic necessities to put them in school does not warrant their involvement in hazardous economic activities at the expense of schooling. Heady (2003) asserts that work has a substantial effect on academic achievement; particularly children combine schooling with economic activity. It is for this fact that children cannot be in school to learn and work at the same time.

In spite of the number of measures and policies put in place by the international bodies and Ghana as a country to eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa production, the involvement of children in the activities of cocoa production, which is hazardous to the child is still going on in the Amenfi West district in the Western region of Ghana.

The 2007/2008 Cocoa Labourers Survey in Ghana by the NPECLC shows children participating in cocoa activities by several districts, which Amenfi West district was one district describe as high participants of children in cocoa production with the percentage of 27.3. This development in the district has raised a lot of concern and attracted Non-Governmental Organisations to intervene, yet the practice of child labour and its worst forms continues to prevail. Concerns from the farmers in Amenfi West indicate that: Children serve as a cheap labour, Parents' low level of income, Access to credit facilities is inadequate and High cost of farming inputs.

In spite of these concerns, farmers employ the services of these children in farming activities. Some of these children are illegally employed as debt bondage and some are also used by their relatives to work to the detriment of their physical, health and mental development. Fyfe (1999) asserts that the use of children in labour is a thing of the past. Therefore, countries that overlook the practice of child labour and its worst forms do that at the expense of destroying the future generation.

The anxiety about the effect of the WFCL on children and abuse of their rights has a deleterious sway on the country's development prospects. It is to this effect that the research takes charge to scrutinize the reasons for the use of children as labourers and the success of human rights interventions in Amenfi West.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Despite numerous policies and mechanisms put in place by the government of Ghana towards the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, children in the country continue to face various challenges in the enjoyment of their rights.

The government of Ghana has been part of the global effort in combating child labour. To demonstrate its commitments, the country was the first to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989). Furthermore, a programme of action dubbed „The Child Cannot Wait“ was launched in June, 1992 that provided a policy framework, strategies and programmes that would protect children and ensure their survival and development (Ghana Statistical Service, 2003).

By doing so, the country has gone beyond legislation to establish institutions to facilitate the social, economic and cultural development as well as the realisation of child rights (Golo, 2012). These institutions include the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), the Department of Social Welfare, and among others.

In 1998, the Parliament of Ghana approved a comprehensive Children's Act (Act 560), which prohibits children under the age of 15 from participating in the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Then in 2000, the country adopted the ILO Convention on Worst Forms of Child Labour. Recently, Ghana's vision 2020 adopted a more human

centred approach to development by laying more emphasis on social welfare issues connected to child labour and trafficking, poverty and hunger. Ghana became the first country to have its efforts on the Worst Forms of Child Labour peer reviewed by ECOWAS. However, children in Ghana continue to engage in the Worst Forms of Child Labour in agriculture.

Article 28 (2) of the 1992 constitution of Ghana states emphatically that “every child has the right to be protected from work that constitutes a threat to his health, education or development”. Yet, child labour and its worst form is very pervasive in Ghana. In the cocoa sector alone, according to a report from Tulane University that assessed data collected during the 2008-2009 harvest season, 997,357 children age 5 to 17 were estimated to be working, and 54 percent, or 538,297 of these children were estimated to be reporting injuries from dangerous activities (UNESCO, 2014). It is with this concern that this study seeks to explore the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa, its implication and the success of child rights intervention for children in the Amenfi West.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The study is designed to explore the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the success of child rights interventions.

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

1. Identify the nature of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa farms in the Amenfi West District.
2. To identify the factors that push children into Worst Forms of Child Labour in three cocoa farming communities in the Amenfi West District.

3. Describe the experiences of children working under the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa farms.
4. To explore the extent of success of human rights intervention on the practice of Worst Forms of Child Labour in the cocoa farm in the Amenfi West District.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

1. What is the nature of Worst Forms of Child Labour practice in cocoa farming in the Amenfi West District?
2. What are the factors that push children into the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa farms in the AWD?
3. What are the experiences that children go through working under Worst Forms of labour in cocoa farming communities in the AWD?
4. To what extent have human rights intervention and legislations directed at WFCL succeeded in the AWD?

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

Child labour in its worst form as a social phenomenon is faced by most developing countries including Ghana. It is therefore important to explore this phenomenon to find out the human rights implications. The findings will be beneficiary to the government, policy makers, traditional leaders, teachers, parents and the children who are being used for labour.

First, the suggestion of the study will provide the government and others who matter the in-depth account of the Worst Forms of Child Labour that will aid them to develop a pragmatic solution to the challenges of child labour. The study will be a



reference material in the decision making in terms of planning policies and programmes toward the right of the child.

Secondly, the findings could serve as a framework for the drawing of developmental programmes on child labour in the local communities by teachers and traditional leaders in educating the people about the implications of subjecting children to labour. Moreover, the study will be useful for other researchers with the knowledge on Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa for further work.

### **1.7 Delimitation of the Study**

Light work, both in the house and on the farms, is in consonance with children learning skills to fit into the society. The study is limited to exploring the Worst Forms of Child Labour in three communities in the Amenfi West district. However, the study focuses strictly on the nature of activities performed by children in the cocoa farms in these communities of the district that are in its worst form concentrating on the success of human rights intervention to eliminate the menace. More so the study is limited and focuses on thirty respondents within the three selected communities.

### **1.8 Organisation of the Study**

The research study is put into six chapters, of which the first chapter gives an account of the study as it introduces the background to the study, highlights on the topic and states the problem that provokes the investigation. It further points out the specific objective of the study and its relevant research questions. As this chapter gives shape to the research, it states the purpose of the research and outlines the significance of the study as well as the delimitations. The second chapter deals with the review of some relevant related literature on Worst Forms of Child Labour. The review is organized under themes including human rights instruments directed at WFCL elimination as

well as some social interventions geared to eliminate the problem under study. Chapter three is directed to the research design and approach adopted for the study. The sample and sampling techniques use for selecting respondents, the data collection instrument used to get the responses from the participants of the study and the data collection procedure and how the data are analysed. The presentation of the results and findings from observation and interviews are captured in chapter four. Detailed discussion of the findings is done under the four research questions outlined in the study, gives responses to the findings that determines the human rights violations meted on the child of which all is captured under chapter five. The chapter six which is the last chapter of the study outlines the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study. This part gives information which is of importance to bodies and individuals who seeks to research into similar study and also draws some policies to help eradicate the problem.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter examines the literature on the concept of human rights, arguments on issues relating to child labour, including the concept of child labour, Worst Forms of Child Labour conventions and laws on children, conceptual framework, prevalence of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana, Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa producing areas. It also focuses on the causes and impact of child labour and its worst form, national legal and institutional framework for the protection of children and finally deals with social intervention programmes and policies to combat worst forms of child labour (WFCL in cocoa).

#### 2.1 The Concept of Human Rights

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948), Human Rights are universal, egalitarian and inalienable, and are centred on dignity, liberty and brotherhood which prohibit any kind of discrimination against a fellow human beings. Though Human Rights to some extent are based on our socio- cultural diversity, it all connotes people having equal rights by virtue of being human. The promulgation of the UDHR as a universal document and other institutions is to fight the course of global peace and protection as well as to end human slavery.

Amnesty International is of the viewpoint that human rights are basic rights and freedoms that all people are entitle to, regardless of nationality, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, language or other status (Amnesty International, n.d.). In that regard, all humans are entitled to rights, being a male, female, rich or poor without necessarily depending on where the individual originated from.

Human rights are said to be universal and inalienable, the entitlement of all people everywhere in the world. An individual cannot voluntarily give them up, nor can others take them away. As stated in Article 1 of the UDHR “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. Though human rights issues are old as man, the struggle for their full attainment and protection continue. In responding to the challenges encountered in the fight for global peace, and fundamental freedom of individuals several institutions are mandated to protect these rights. With respect to the United Nation Declaration on Human Rights it is agreed that by virtue of being part of the human race every person has certain rights that cannot be discriminated against. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is specifically mandated to protect three dimensions of the rights of the child (the Right to Survival, the Right to Development and the Rights to Protection). Yet many children are vulnerable and face a lot of abuses in their home schools and other places.

In view of these, institutions and other human rights laws on children worldwide should be promoted and given the necessary support and opportunities for child survival and development due to the child's vulnerability. But unfortunately that is not always done. Child Labour and its worst forms, form part of the violations and must be given the necessary attention since it infringes on the rights of the child and have long term negative implications of child future development.

## **2.2 Concept of Child Labour**

Child labour connotes a scary image which has attracted attention and several interventions from all over the world. Child labour is of many forms and emanates from socio-cultural and economic factors of a particular environment. Attempts to define what constitutes child labour are diverse opinion, where different kinds of

definitions arise. On the other hand, the common phenomenon that seems to appear in all diverse views on definition of child labour is the harm meted on the children by the kind of work they do and the age at which children work.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 1 defines a “child as every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”. The International Labour Organisation (ILO Convention 138), sets 15 years as the age permitted to employ the child to do the work, while Article 3.1 set minimum age for admission to any type of employment or work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out. It is the work likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons shall not be less than 18 years.

According to the UNICEF (2005), the term child labour has three different dimensions which draw a little different understanding of the three. These are:

- a) Child Work: children performing economic activities that do not affect their health and development negatively or interfere with their education. This is also termed “light work” and national laws or regulations may permit the employment of persons between ages 13 to 15 years in accordance to Article 7 of Convention 138.
- b) Worst Forms of Child Labour: the use of children as slaves, forcibly recruited, engaged in prostitution, sale or trafficking and exposed to hazardous economic activities.
- c) Child Labour: this comprises children working under harmful conditions that affect their health and interfere with their education.

In view of the UNICEF definition on child labour and its worst form appears that they do not oppose to work children perform at home, family business or family farm which do not pose any threat to their development or prevent them from schooling. The Children's Act of Ghana (1998) defines child labour as a work that deprives the child of its health, education and development and sets a minimum age of fifteen years to employ children. Moreover, the Children Act again sets 18 years for the engagement of person in hazardous work, as it defines hazardous work to be a work that is harmful to the child, which also interferes with their schooling.

The ILO Director General's report presented at the International Conference of the 69th session in 1983 have divergent views on child labour definition. It states that „teenagers“ working for a few hours to earn additional pocket money, children doing household work, youngsters helping their parents or family on the farm are not child labour. Rather, children prematurely living adult lives and working long hours for salaries and wages under an environment detrimental to their health and physical and mental development are classified as Child Labour.

These divergent views of persons and authorities to what constitutes child labour are in controversy. Many countries fail to synchronize their Child Labour legislation to ensure there is consistency between the minimum age for full-time work and the school leaving age, in line with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 182.

### **2.2.1 Worst Forms of Child Labour**

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 1999 enacted Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour to protect children below the age of eighteen (18) years from performing hazardous work.

These works are captured in Article 3 of the convention and includes:

- (a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including force or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- (b) the use, procuring or offering of child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- (c) the use, procuring or offering a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs;
- (d) Work which, by its nature or the circumstance in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

The nature of work in Article 3d is to be determined by laws, regulation and national authorities what constitute hazardous activities (ILO: C182, 1999). Sections a-d of article 3 of the Convention is illegal and unacceptable and is unimaginable for children working under such conditions. For instance, commercial sex exploitation, debt bondage and forced or compulsory recruitment of children below the age of eighteen (18) years are unacceptable. These forms of child labour are considered “Unconditional Worst Forms of Child Labour”, which do not allow any debate.

Harm is inherent in the nature of activities that the Convention outlines; Article 4 of the Convention mandates national laws or regulation or competent authority to determine work under section d of Article 3 outlines “Conventional Worst Forms of Child Labour”, in this, one could say that it gives room for state parties to manipulate what constitute hazardous activities or Worst Forms of Child Labour to suit them.

To sanitize section d of Article 3, the Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation 190 has given a guideline to streamline what should constitute or be considered as hazardous forms of child labour, these include:

- (a) Work which exposes children too physical, psychological or sexual abuse,
- (b) Work underground, under water, at dangerous heights, or in confined spaces
- (c) Work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;

These nature of work considered as hazardous by the ILO recommendation on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ILO: R 190, 1999) do not leave room for manipulation by various countries, thereby children cannot participate. In most indigenous societies, especially Ghana the inhabitants are farmers and it is assumed that children participate in the activities of their parents and guardians. But it has turned up that the activities children engage in constitute child labour and it Worst forms. For example, in typical farming communities, children are sent to the farm early morning before school time and also after school session, which presuppose that their schooling is not affected. But contrary to that the activities they perform in the morning affect the learning ability as some may be tired for the day.

On one side the Article 3d of the convention creates the atmosphere or environment for consensus building by state parties to put bans on the kind of activities these children do on the farms to prevent endangering their development. In respect, activities that constitute Worst Forms of Child Labour can conditionally be improved for children participation. The Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour Article 7.2c tasks member states to implement and enforce or ensure access to basic education, vocational and secondary education for all children to foster the removal of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. This policy of the ILO is to keep children in school for the avoidance of engaging in labour. This is because the work they do prevent them from their educational or intellectual development. Ofose Kusi (2005) is of the



view that the alternate time children use for working deprives them of opportunity of accessing education and so violates the rights of children under the UNCRC.

The Ministry of Manpower, Youth and employment in its labour practice in cocoa production in Ghana in 2008 opines that, putting away children from school can be considered as hazardous since education is an essential part of children's development (MMYE, 2008b). More so, engaging some children in the cocoa farms early morning before going to school interfere with their education in such that, attending school becomes impossible and that do not promote effective learning.

The Convention 182 enjoins its members to prevent the engagement of children in Worst Forms of Child Labour through ensuring access to free basic education and other forms of secondary and vocational education (ILO, 1999). Though engaging children with free access to education is not an absolute panacea for eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour, it plays an important role in eliminating the practices.

### **2.3 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**

The world in 1989 made a promise to children to do everything possible in its power to promote and protect children's right to survive and thrive, to learn and grow, to make their voices heard and to reach their full potential through the establishment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The CRC is the most comprehensive and most highly accepted international ratified treaty that aims to protect the rights of children worldwide. Though the UDHR of 1948, Declaration on the Rights of the child in 1959 and the ICCPR and ICESCR of 1976 grants Motherhood and childhood, some special care and call on the government

to ensure children enjoy certain rights. But the CRC forms the first global most ratified document to protect children.

The CRC comprises of fifty-two (52) Articles which consist of social, cultural, economic, political and civil rights to be enjoyed by children. Article 1 of the Convention defines a child as every human being below the age of eighteen (18) years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier, unlike the Children's Charter the CRC leaves national laws to determine the age of the child according to what they deem it right. This Article has led situation where some countries employ children in armed conflict and also peg their marriage age below 18 years.

The Convention accords the child with four important principles that help promote and protect child rights. Article 2 of the Convention protects children from non-discrimination without exception from parents, guardians and nations. The Best interest of the child as in Article 3 ascribe that all decisions, taken by states and other organizations regarding the care and protection of children should be in the child's best interests. Unlike the Children's Charter, the UNCRC on the best interest of the child is implicit; therefore the best interest of the child shall be „a primary“ consideration whereas the Children's Charter which uses „the primary“ consideration. This implies that, the Convention allows other principles and considerations to be taken into account to override the best interest principle. Chirwa, (2002) is of the view that the Convention on this principle has some criticism, but on the other hand, the general state obligations towards these principles promote the full protection of the child. Under the CRC the following rights are recognized; right to education in Article 28, right to health and health services in Article 24 and Article 32, protect children

from economic exploitation and any conditions considered as child labour that do not promote physical and intellectual development of the child. The CRC recognizes education as a developmental process of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their full potential, to develop respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for cultural identity, language and values for the national values of the country in which the child is living (Article 29). This is geared towards the idea that children who have access to education are taken away from economic exploitation or child labour.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, formulates a philosophy of respect for children as individuals, recognizing each child as "Unique." It sets out a framework of obligation to provide education that promotes children's optimum development. According to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, general comment on promoting full capacity of children explicitly imply the need for education to be child-centred, child-friendly and highlights the need for educational processes to be based on the very principles it enunciate. (Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment).

The provision of Article 32 which is more relevant to the study states that: State Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. In reference to the obligations of state parties recognizing these rights and incorporating into their national laws is of much importance and sets out the acceptance of work children should engage in accordance with international labour and humanitarian law. Article 32 (2) Enforce member state to take up measures

to implement legislative and administrative laws to end or eliminate or stop children participating in hazardous activities that will be detrimental to their development through the proper application of minimum age for admission to employment; More so, member state is to provide appropriate regulation of hours and conditions of employment. The issuance of caveat in article 32 (2c) to state parties to provide appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure effective enforcement of the entire article is a justification to eliminate all forms of exploitative labour on the child.

The supervision and implementation of the provisions of the Convention are mandated to a committee to oversee the provision, under article 43 to 45. The committee is to supervise report and cooperate with state parties for proper implementation and monitoring. Despite numerous, civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights accorded the CRC, it still holds a lot criticism, the CRC is conceived as a western imposes ideology which derided African values and culture, but poses the child to uphold the individualist view, that contradict the majority of country's culture assumption. The Convention is seen as a weak document at the level of the work of the Committee.

Bissel (2003) opines that the criticism of the Committee or Convention by countries who fail to practice the obligation of the CRC cannot sanction countries for violating the rights of the children. More so, UNICEF (2001) states that the CRC is rarely matched with corresponding actions in law, policy and practices, it sometimes conflicts with national laws or country's existing laws and policies. As the Convention allows states members to penalize the perpetrators of child exploitation within its country, it takes away a legal punishment for government itself that makes policies and laws to infringe on children's rights. Troope (1996) is of the view that,

the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the breakthrough in the effort to improve the lives of the children around the world and as a tool of international human rights as it set a new standard in the human rights field.

#### **2.4 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)**

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1990 agreed to adopt the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child also known as ACRWC or Children's Charter and this entered into force nine (9) years later in 29 November, 1999 which derived from the sentiment that the UNCRC failed to consider (Voljoen, 2000). In this vein the UNCRC could not address the socio-cultural ideologies of the African continent.

More so, the birth and development of the African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the Child was to supplement or plug in the holes presented by the global instrument (Wako, 1988). Chirwa (2002) opines that the ACRWC as recognized as the second global and a first regional binding instrument that identifies the child as a possessor of certain rights and makes it possible for the child to assert those rights in the domestic judicial or administrative proceedings.

The Children's Charter begins with a preamble reaffirming adherence to the principles of the rights and welfare of the child consisting of eight paragraphs of which four stands unique to the provision to the child, these includes:

- Noting with concern that the situation of most African children, remains critical due to the unique factors of their socio – economic, cultural, traditional and developmental circumstances, natural disaster, armed conflict, exploitation and hunger, and on account of the child's physical and mental immaturity he/she needs special safeguards and care.

- Recognizing that the child occupies a unique and privileged position in the African society and that the full and harmonious development of his personality. The child should grow up in a family environment in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.
- Taking into consideration the virtues of their cultural heritage, historical background and values of the African civilization which should inspire and characterizes their reflection on the concept of the rights and welfare of the child.
- Considering that the promotion and protection of the right and welfare of the child also imply the performance of duties on the part of everyone.

The preamble of the Children's Charter draws the ideal that the African child due to socio-economic and cultural factors deserves a special safeguards and care. This is to emphasise that the African child is coupled with unforeseen circumstances that put him/her at a risk, with the dynamics in the African continent such as natural disasters, civil war and poor environment. Here the child should be given the necessary protection and care to outfit him/her from uncondusive environment. Notwithstanding the virtues of their cultural heritage, historical background and values of African civilization should incorporate to reflect on proper care and protection of the rights and welfare of the child. More so, as the African socio – economic and cultural issues seek to protect and promote the rights and welfare of the child at the same time subject the children to perform some kind of duties and responsibilities. Therefore, it is to say that, protection of child rights does not only elevate the child, but also subject them to take task that build their capacity to fit into the society. The ACRWC enforce states members to incorporate and implement policies and measures in line with the provisions to fulfil the rights of the child.

The definition of the child by the Charter is more precise; it applies to every person under the age 18 years (Article 2), and makes it more specific than the CRC. Gose (2002) is of the view that as the Charter therefore applies to every person below the age 18 will not allow any manipulation by states parties; therefore it is absolute and does not allow for any exceptions or caveats unlike the CRC. This suggests that countries who have ratified the Children's Charter cannot engage their children in activities considered to be hazardous or worst form under the pretence that 15 years can be employed to do such work.

Article 11 of the Children's Charter emphasis on education of the child where it explicitly states that "Education of the child shall be directed to the promotion and development of the child's personality, talents, mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential; that is to say that the development of the child is a major concern. It is of evidential value that when children are engaged in full time schooling it prevent the involvement in hazardous activities, therefore child labour will be minimized or eliminated. The Charter without any provocation demand state parties to work in conformity with the ILO Conventions in combating Child Labour and it Worst Forms through establishment of national legislation and policies which seek to eliminate child labour. As the charter grants the child, the freedom from economic exploitation, as it derived its inspiration from the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR, 1966).

The enforcement of the laws to foster the implementation mechanism of the Charter especially eliminating child labour did not leave it in a vacuum, but constitute a Committee of Experts to the provisions of the Charter. The independent of the Charter is responsible for conducting investigations into human rights violations and supervise

and monitor the promotion and protection of the rights of children under the Charter. The establishment of the Committee is a plus and shows full commitment to address the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of the child.

The fact that the states parties are obliged to submit reports to the Committee in respect to how countries are enforcing the implementation of laws against child labour and other abuses empowered a strong feeling to fight or eliminate the child in labour and its worst forms.

Viljoen, (2006) opines that the Committee encounters some setback, identified are constant lack of legal counsel present at the sessions of the committee to give legal guidance on decisions being taken by the Committee resulting in delays in their work. Contrary, unlike the CRC, the Charter omit in the provision that countries are required fully to commit and use their resources to foster the implementation and fight against child abuse.

## **2.5 National Legal and Institutional Framework of Child Labour and its Worst Forms**

Ghana's showing commitment in the fight for the global phenomenon of child labour and its worst forms, it has incorporated the International, Regional Conventions and laws into a local binding document to curb the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the country. Below are some of the institutions in Ghana in respect to Worst Forms of Child Labour.



### **2.5.1 The Ghanaian 1992 Republican Constitution on Child Labour and its Worst Forms**

Ghana's Constitution ensures the fundamental human rights and freedom of its citizenry, and entreats all individual and institutions to uphold and respect the dignity of all people. Chapter 5 of the constitution spelt out all the rights people are to enjoy and as well as to protect their rights. Article 28 outlines the rights children are to enjoy; comparably the Ghana's Constitution has incorporated the International and Regional human rights laws on children in labour.

Article 28 outlines: Parliament shall enact laws that are necessary to ensure that:

- 1d. Children and young people receive special protection against exposure to physical and moral hazards.
- 2a. Every child has the right to be protected from engaging in work that constitutes a threat to his health, education or development.
3. A child shall not be subjected to torture or other cruel, in human or degrading treatment or punishment
4. No child shall be deprived by any other person of medical treatment, education or any other social or economic benefit by reason only of religious or other beliefs.

Ghana's Constitution outlining this major concern on child labour and its worst form is in the direction to eliminate the menace and protect the child from unscrupulous employers of children.

### **2.5.2 Children's Act of Ghana 1998 (Act 560)**

One of the most comprehensive laws in Ghana that seeks to promote and protect the child's interest from unnecessary involvement of labour and its worst form. The Act also set out the rights to be protected and the punishment that should be meted out to people who violate it on the aspect of child labour and its worst form.

Section 12 of the Act protects the child from engaging in exploitative labour, this shows Ghana's commitment to the physical, mental and psychological well – being of the children.

The Act prescribe that labour is exploitative of the child if it deprives the child of its health, education or development.

The minimum age as outline by the Act to engage the child in some work or employment is 15 years for child labour and 13 years for light work, where light work constitutes work which is not likely to be harmful to the health or development of the child and do not affect the child's schooling or the capacity of the child to benefit from school.

Moreover, a minimum age specify for hazardous employment is 18 years. Therefore, hazardous work poses danger to health, safety or morals of the person per the age set for hazardous work which is in line to worst form of labour which stipulates that children are not to be involved in the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

The Children's Act 560 establishes much strength to fight child labour and its worst form as it promulgates or establish an institution to take care of the children. Section 27 prescribes the child panel to permit the child express his opinion and participate in any decision. Section 33 set the family tribunals and other Child Rights Committees, to advocate for children's rights and to cater for the needs of children. These institutions and child rights committee is to implement policies and punish offenders of the law who engage children in exploitative labour. Though the children's Act seeks to promote and protect child rights and prescribe some remedies, the punishment for violators of the provision is not deterring enough to prevent people from contravening the provisions (Section 15 of the children's Act).

### **2.5.3 Ghana's Labour Act 2003 (Act 651)**

Act 651 was passed to regulate labour issues in Ghana and set out proper employment policies. The Act adheres to provide protection for younger person in the engagement or employment of work likely to expose the person to physical or moral hazard. In the reign of Ghana seeks to address the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the provision of the Convention 182 has been mainstream into national institutions to regulate child labour in the cocoa growing communities.

Section 58 – 61 set out the employment issues of young people. Section 58 prohibits the involvement of young person in works that are of physical or moral hazard and also commit the authority to institute legislative instrument to determine the type of employment that is likely to expose a young person to physical or moral hazard.

The Act also consolidates the health of young persons in admitting the child to work as well as stipulates an employer shall keep a register on the child employed with details like date of births. The Act mandates person who contravenes the said regulation be put before the necessary punishment that may be determined by legislation.

### **2.5.4 National Programme for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour**

The Convention 182 of the ILO prohibits Worst Forms of Child Labour as defined to include all forms of slavery and slavery like practices. In the fulfilment of ratifying the ILO Convention 182, state parties should put in place effective time bound measures to eliminate Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016.

The government of Ghana in 2006 through the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment in collaboration with the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP) accepted to establish the National Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa (NPECLC) as Ghana's response to deal with the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa production chain (MMYE, NPECLC, 2008).

The programme as design had the overall goal to eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa by 2011 and in all sectors by 2015. But the question is that, has the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa being achieved. The programme works under the following strategic objectives.

- Enhancement of knowledge base on WFCL in cocoa growing areas to create awareness and advocacy activities.
- Strengthening of legal framework for dealing with WFCL in cocoa growing areas.
- Mobilizing community stakeholders, local authorities' action against WFCL in cocoa growing areas.
- Development and implementation of interventions to eliminate WFCL in cocoa growing areas.
- Promotion of universal basic education and the development of child's ability in the cocoa growing communities.
- Development and implementation of intervention that reduce the used for child labour in cocoa growing areas.
- Development of institutional and technical capacities at national, regional, district and local communities to effectively address child labour and its worst form in the cocoa growing sector (MMYE, 2008).

In respect to the numerous strategic objectives of the implementation of the NPECLC, the study seeks to focus emphatically on the enhancement of knowledge base on the WFCL in cocoa, strengthening of legal framework for dealing with WFCL in cocoa growing areas and implementation and promotion of the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education for the realization of children's needs in building developmental cognitive ability.

Article 3 of the ILO Convention No. 182 defines what constitute Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) to include hazardous work. Article 4 redirect member states to determine by national laws or regulations or competent authority, after consultation with organization of employers and workers' concern to identify activities and types of work determined to constitute Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Ghana through the NPECLC responded to ILO Convention 182 to developed hazardous framework for the cocoa sector to determine WFCL in cocoa, the hazardous activities for children in the cocoa sector for a seasonal calendar. The prohibited cocoa production activities for children under 18 years are outlined below.

**Figure 1: Activities considered as Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa production**

- *Clearing of forest and /or felling of trees*
- *Bush burning*
- *Working with agrochemicals, i.e. purchasing, transport, storage, use (mixing, loading and spraying/applying), washing of containers and spraying machine and disposal.*
- *Being present or working in the vicinity of farm during pesticide spraying; or re-entering a sprayed farm within less than 12 hours of spraying*
- *Using machetes/long cutlasses for weeding*
- *Climbing trees higher than 3 metres (9 feet) to cut mistletoe with cutlass*
- *Working with motorized mist blower, knapsack sprayer and/or chainsaw*
- *Harvesting overhead cocoa pods with harvesting hook*
- *Breaking cocoa pods with breaking knife*
- *Carrying heavy load beyond permissible carrying weight, i.e. above 30% of body weight for more than 2 miles (3km - see Table 10)*
- *Working on the farm for more than 3 hours per day or more than 18 hours per week (for children on weekends, holidays and/or have completed school).*
- *For children in school, working more than 2 hours/day on a school day*
- *Working without adequate basic foot and body protective clothing (e.g. long sleeves, trousers, Wellington boots and „Afro Moses“)*
- *A child working alone on the farm in isolation (i.e. beyond visible or audible range of nearest adult)*
- *Going to or returning from the farm alone or working on farm between 6.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.*
- *A child withdrawn from school during cocoa season to do farm work*
- *Working full time on farm and not attending formal / non-formal school (applicable to children under 15 years)*

**Source:** (MMYE, 2008)

Figure 1 are the activities outline as the dangerous work that children below 18 years are not to take part, since it may put them in jeopardy, and this is outlined by the NPECLC. In consonance with the International and national laws that protect children, the MMYE and NPECLC in 2008 constituted work that are permissible for

children to undertake under the guidance of cocoa farmers as determined by the Minimum Age.

**Table 1: Permissible Work for Children in Cocoa and Recommendations**

AGE GROUP	ACTIVITY/TASK	RECOMMENDATION
5- 7	May accompany parents to the farm during weekends or holidays but do not undertake any specific task	Under adult supervision
8-11	Assist in taking care of babies and toddlers on the farm Helping with cooking and serving food Running farm errands Picking harvested pods under cocoa trees in the company of adults Uprooting weeds around young cocoa plants	Under adult supervision
12-14	Filling of Nursery bags with black soil Fetching water for spraying and leaving the farm before spraying commences Gathering of cocoa pods Scooping and removal of beans Carting minor loads Watering of Seedlings at the nursery	Adequate training Under adult supervision
15-17	Assisting in planting cocoa Weeding/brushing undergrowth"s with age – appropriate cutlass (Sue-ado or small cutlass) Plucking within hand-reach pods Breaking cocoa pods with breaking mallet or hitting on the ground Carting load Seedling for planting Water for spraying Cocoa pods for heaping Fermented beans to drying mat Dry beans for sale	Adequate training Under adult supervision            Carrying weight should not exceed 30% bodyweight for more than 2miles (3 Km)

Source: (MMYE, 2008)

The table indicates activities that are permissible for children in cocoa production that do not pose threat to the child, even though do not pose threat but should be supervised by parents or guidance.

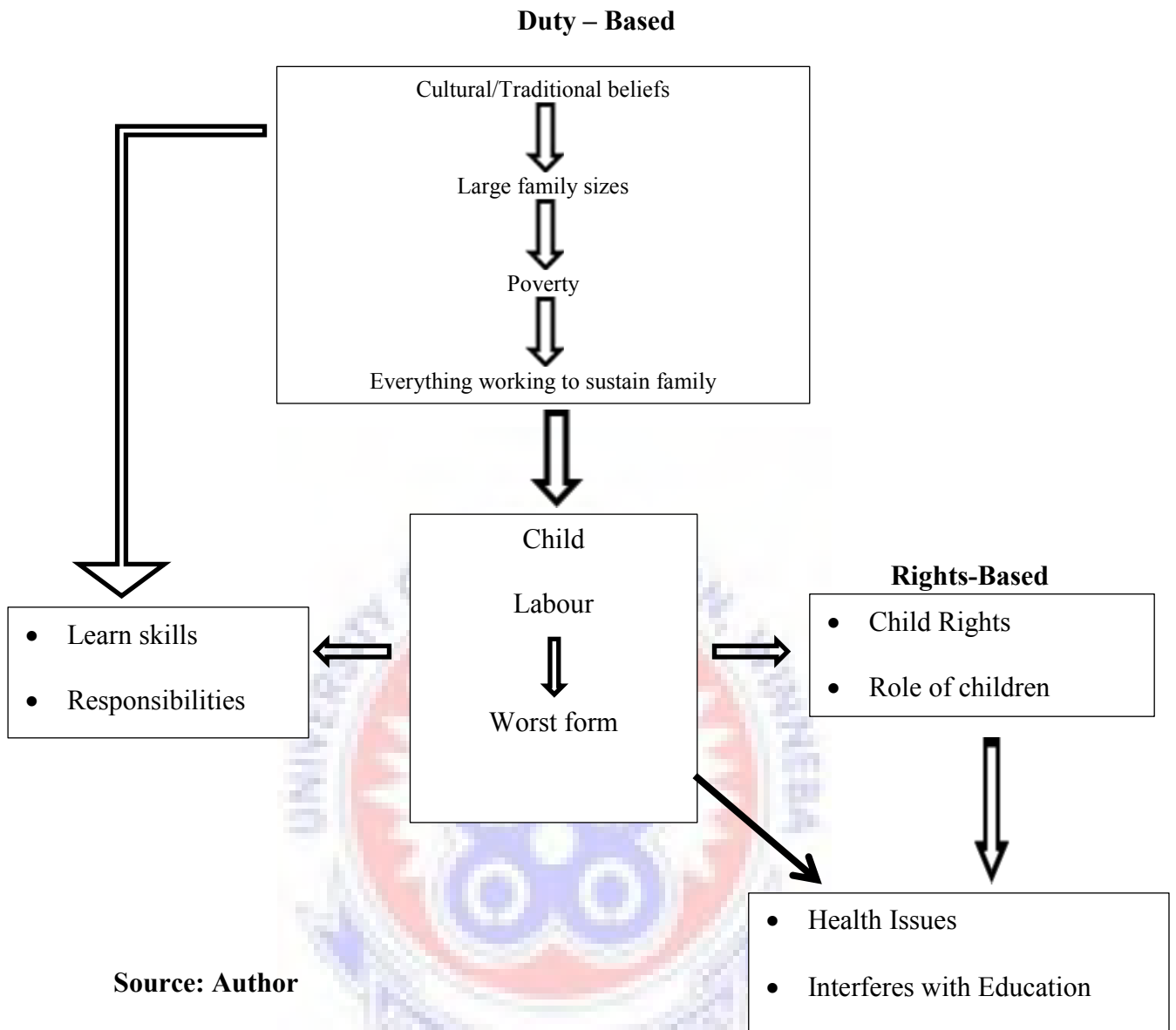
The NPECLC after its establishment constituted a pilot survey into labour practices in 2006/2007 cocoa season; the results of the survey were used to implement remediation actions (MMYE, 2008). A workshop organized by NPECLC and funded by UNICEF led to the formation of District and Community Child Protection Committees (DCPC, and CCPCs) where they were tasked to continue sensitization activities and also undertake community surveillance.

In the fight to eliminate and put in strict measure on WFCL, the NPECLC again increased the community participation; a Community based Child Labour Monitoring (CCLM) system was designed to involve stakeholders, where they were tasked to collect data annually, analyse the report on the prevalence of Worst of Child Labour in cocoa production (MMYE, 2008).

## **2.6 Conceptual Framework**

Children are considered important for parents for several reasons. Child abuse and Child labour have been predominant in traditional Africa. The conceptual framework adopted in this study is as a results of preconceive minds of parents in having large family size. The Ghana Health Service and the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana undertook a research which revealed that cultural beliefs as a contributing factor to women having large family size and having many children (GHS: PPAG, 2006, as cited in MMYE, 2008). In traditional African and Ghana to be precise having a large family size is to fulfil cultural and traditional beliefs of the society. Children are considered important for parents for several reasons.





**Figure 2: A model conceptual framework showing the relationship of Duty Base and Rights Base attitude in the practice of child labour and its Worst Form.**

In every society reproduction is considered a way to attain almost all goals in life, and in traditional agricultural setup in Africa having children means several advantages. As an expansion of gender roles, continuation of descent, groups, the maintenance of property, economic welfare in old age, securing future family labour (Davis: 1981:561; Alam, 2006). It is an undeniable fact that polygamous family contributes

large family size. In traditional Africa, children are considered as economic assets who can help them execute their responsibilities than mere having children.

After having large family sizes parents could not manage the demand of the family, therefore, obliged them to work and supplement family income. Ahamd, (2012) is of the view that children engaging in labour as well as older siblings often contribute more to the family income. Typically, large family size has significant relationship with much greater risk of poverty (Maxwell, 1996). Obamiro, Doppler, and Kormawa, (2003) reported that an increase in household size would likely put the household membership to food insecure. This shows that the larger the family sizes the lesser food and other basic needs available to the family, therefore children are put to labour.

Poverty creates many problems such as child labour, prostitution, corruption, robbery, increased unemployment, poor living conditions, malnutrition etc. (Owolabi, 2012; Ekpenyong & Sibirii, 2011). There are several circumstances that affect child labour which have demonstrated that the most notable reason being poverty (Bhat & Rather, 2009). If the family lives below the poverty line, parents see children as part of the contributor in their family income. Basu (1998) used a theoretical model of child labour, where he showed the only reason, parents send children to labour is because of their low income. Rena (2009) shows that poverty and underdevelopment drives child labour. She found that the high prevalence of poverty amongst countries increases the child labour rate. It is obvious that parents put their children into labour to help sustain the family. For instance, in Bangladesh about 30 percent and over people live in extreme poverty, thereby family find it difficult to fulfil their basic needs as a matter of that engage children in risky jobs at an early age, which is detrimental to

their health and growing (Shikdar, Kayum; Biswas, Kumar, Tanvir and Tabassum, 2013).

From figure 2 cultural and traditional beliefs and other factors as pointed above results in large family sizes and as that result in poverty, therefore the children are put in labour that are hazardous or in its worst form, only of the view to learn skills on the farming sector or other sectors of work to be responsible in the future. Until the realization of child rights, where the role of the child changes and the effect of involving children in the worst form labour, such as health issues, physical, emotional and interference of education was realized.

#### *Duty Based*

During the evolution of childhood, Aries assert that children did not exist therefore labour was a duty base in a household, children were expected to perform similar activities like parents do without taking into account children growth, security, welfare and their rights. Parents prefer their children to work because they consider it beneficial for them as they learn skills Tauson (2009). Adult perception was that involving children in labour to learn skills on their job for the future is not a panacea for future development of children. It undisputable fact, that child labour begets poverty as poverty beget child labour, which is generally accepted in most instances.

Child labour and its worst form perpetuate poverty in the sense that, children working grows into adulthood and are trapped in unskilled labour and poorly paid jobs UNICEF (1997). This explains that children in child labour and its worst forms grows up not acquiring any skills that will give them good paid work or jobs in the future which is in line to poverty cycle. According to Omokhodion & Odusote, (2006) child working is considered as part of children training to be responsible adults. As that

children has a responsibility to play in the family affair which aid them to be good adults.

### *Rights Based*

Historically, children were regarded as socially insignificant and were consequently maltreated, exploited and receive no care and protection by parents and the states. Children work in various places like the homes and outside the homes to sustain the family. For instance, in the late nineties and early twentieth centuries large family size has been the order of the day just to keep children on the farm to work and help keep the family going. These works were to make children learn skills and also act responsibly as they grow up to form their family. Most of these works were on the farms, like cultivating cash crops and other crops. Parents did not see anything wrong with the kind of work their children do, whether it had health implication or not. Children age six upwards were seen as little adults undertaking adult tasks and educated as apprentices. Parent in those days had unlimited powers and control over children, children or childhood did not exist and seen as economic assets (Aries, 1987).

Until the 18th to 19th century when the International Labour Organization addressed the protection of children's rights by setting 1919 Minimum Age (Industrial) Convention No. 5 as the first international effort to control children's activities at workplace of which Ghana was a signatory to that Convention. This Convention sets 14 years as a minimum age for children to work in industries. Since then the attitude of duty-base change to rights-based, children's rights were recognized and the role of the child changed. Later in the 19th century, these work children were involved in were seen as capital base, oppressing children's rights and interfering with their

education and also imposing health implications which is detrimental to them. Article 1 of the Convention defines an industrial undertaking to include mines, quarries, industries, construction and reconstruction, transportation. In 1937 and 1973 the said Convention has been revised and peg the minimum age for employing children into non-hazardous work at 15 years, whereas at age 18 the child is fully grown to take hazardous work. On the 26 September, 1924 the league of nation adopted the Geneva Declaration, the first ever document that recognized and reaffirm the existence of rights of children and the responsibility of adults towards their children but was not legally binding.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly grants children some rights they are to enjoy such as dignity and education (UDHR, 1948). The Convention on the Rights of the Child unanimously adopted in 1989 by the UN General Assembly explicitly establish a full range of human rights being its civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights for children. Article 32.1 ascribes that States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. More so, oblige ratifying nations to commit themselves to the implementation of the provisions with the countries' resources (CRC, 2000).

It is imperative to know that small family sizes enjoy quality life which includes higher education, health services and better economic status. A research conducted in the Sunyani Municipality of Ghana indicates that families of 1-6 children (parents included) had comparatively been able to educate their wards to higher levels of the

educational attainment as compared to their compatriots with larger family sizes of 7-10 children (Arthur, 2006). His study further showed that there is a significant relationship between the levels of education of respondents and choice of family size. Respondents' level of education was cross tabulated with their family size relatively show that larger family sizes of above 4 children were registered by respondents with very low levels of education.

Budhwani et al. (2004) and Bhat et al. (2009) are of the view that education can be significant for development, for example education can make children develop and learn, resulting in intelligent societies in the future. Besides children receiving education can put them into skilled work.

More so Article 15 of the Children's Charter states that every child shall be protected from all forms of economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. Therefore, child labour and its worst form curtails higher education, and then the rights of the child are violated. It is a fact that when children are given education at the early stage exploitative labour won't take control of their life. UNICEF (1997) affirms that education is one of the keys that will unlock the prison cell of hazardous labour in which many children are confined.

Gibbons, Huebler and Loaiza (2005) is of the view that child labour is associated with higher repetition and school dropout rates. Child labour competes with school attendance and proficiency; children sent to work do not achieve academic skills and missing the opportunity to enhance their productivity and future earnings capacity. Children that enter into the labour force earlier reduce lifetime earnings by 13-20 per cent, increasing significantly the probability of being poor later in life. ILO, (2006)

The activities children do, for instance, clearing bushes, burning the land and applying pesticides and chemicals on the cocoa farms becomes dangerous to the health of the children involved. ILO-IPEC (2003) assert that the work some children do as a childhood activity becomes an obstacle to their physical, emotional and social development, therefore takes away their rights to development. In the cocoa sector alone, a report from Tulane University that assessed a data collected during the 2008-2009 harvest season, 997,357 children age 5 to 17 were estimated to be working, and 54 percent or 538,297 of these children were estimated to be reporting injuries from dangerous activities (UNESCO, 2014). This implies that the activities of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the cocoa sector that are meted on the child put their body growth incomplete and poor physiological development. There are serious health implications on these child labourers as the injuries from cuts and burns may expose them to infectious disease and body deformity. Article 14 of the Children's Charter grants every child shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health, therefore contravention to the child's health allude that the rights of the child are violated.

### **2.7.1 Prevalence of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana**

Children are engaged in some kinds of work in the traditional West African countries, but the intensity of the work gives its classification. In the Ghanaian context of work, children right away from age 5 perform domestic work such as cleaning, washing of bowls which are termed as light work. In the last two decades, Ghana has witnessed the emergence of international and local institutions to abolish or reduce child labour and its worst form as a number of children being trapped into the situation. Human rights activist, both local and international, health and educational professionals describe child involvement in laborious work as abusive, since the work is seen as

dangerous, unhealthy, bad conditions and involved in long working hours, they also argue that children in Ghana are deprived of rest and quality access to education.

The ILO in the 2010 estimated that about 200 million children are still involved in exploitative labour, which includes quarrying, fishing, farming and other pottery activities like selling on the streets and commercial sex working. In Ghana, agriculture is the major traditional work of the people, until recently agriculture was the highest contributor to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Cocoa has been the major cash crop grown in Ghana and is cultivated in about seven regions in the country and also contributes to foreign exchange earner. The farming sector in Ghana employs about 52.3% of the economically active population; therefore it is imperative to consider labour issues in agriculture more seriously.

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS, 2013) under their Ghana Living Standards Survey says about 33 percent of an estimated 26,347,424 million persons aged 5-17 years are economically active. Out of this number, 31 percent, representing 2,692,435 million are engaged in economic activities. In terms of the population distribution of children working, both males and females are higher in the rural areas representing 20 percent than urban areas representing 7.7 percent who are engaged in the hazardous activities term as the Worst Forms of Child Labour. More so the survey indicates that children in the rural forest are engaged in the worst form of labour estimating 504,769 persons of the total work force of 911,107 children in the rural area working under hazardous form of labour. This is to show that in the rural areas, forest belt being precise, children are engaged in works that are hazardous to their health.



### **2.7.2 Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa Production in Ghana**

In the forest and coastal belt of Ghana agriculture is the major employment opportunity in those areas of which farming and fishing is mostly practice. The major crop grown in the area is cocoa, therefore almost every household cultivates cocoa, this has been a source of livelihood to thousands of families and their dependents in the southern part of Ghana, and in this regard children in various households is used in the activities involved in the cocoa production.

According to Tulane University research survey of the cocoa sector in Cote D' Ivoire and Ghana in 2009, estimates that more than 50% of the children of agricultural households in the cocoa growing areas in Ghana work in agriculture, with 25-50% working in cocoa. It also reveals that about 997,357 children in Ghana worked on cocoa related activities. Children working with their parents or guardians in the cocoa farms during the holidays or after school is no problem, but the kind of activities they do and the hours they spend working to contribute to the abuse of these children's rights. In the same report, it estimated that children aged 5-17 years working representing 54 percent or 538,297 reported injuries from dangerous activities. The activities children do such as land clearing, using machetes, spraying pesticides and carrying cocoa pods and beans for long distance in the cocoa production.

The socio-cultural perspective from which the issues of Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa as examined by policy makers is not only to know the wrongful or rightful nature of it, but to make them understand the way it is practice and inform them the way to eliminate it. It is very pertinent for child labourers and their employers to fully understand and well convinced that the practice is not good. Therefore the immediate exercising legality of eliminating the practice is significant. Some of the socio-cultural

perspectives of Ghana's cocoa sector, farmers hold the view that involving the children gives them the opportunity to learn being responsible, and to carry on the family business.

In assessing the extend of children being involved in the Worst Form of Labour in cocoa communities in Ghana, Owusu (2011) identified the socio-cultural and economic factors that are associated in the involvement of children in worst form labour in cocoa in the study area of Assin Jakai in the Assin South district were poverty and exploitation of the poor was realised. He also asserts that the cultural beliefs of the people are to involve their children to learn the trade of their parents and obey their command. In his research it reveals that the involvement of children in the production of cocoa is an aged-old tradition, hence the immediate labour value constitutes a traditional way of imparting cocoa production skills to take over from the ageing parents and relatives. This instance of socio-cultural perspectives of cocoa farmers confirms the stands that they should understand to stop the practice themselves than to introduce legal action against them.

A report by the cocoa labour survey in Ghana 2007/2008 outline that some children working in cocoa production in the Amenfi West district are performing activities that are classified as Worst Forms of Child Labour, for example, practicing as debt bondage of which it is disadvantageous to the children as depriving them of good health, access to education and development (MMYE, 2008). Yes, as a matter of these that the Casely-Hayford (2004) identified five major typologies of children who are involved in labour practices in his study in cocoa growing areas. These include:

- Children in school and engaged in cocoa farming during their off-school hours, some of whom are performing hazardous activities on the farm, but are still in school.
- Children who are in school, but occasionally taken out in order to perform farming activities on the cocoa farms during peak seasons such as harvest time;
- Children who have dropped out of school before the end of completing basic education (J.H.S 3) due to lack of economic support from parents, death in the family etc. And are involved in full time cocoa farming with their families and sometimes hire labour out;
- Children who have never attended school and are engaged in cocoa farming;
- Children, particularly from Northern Ghana, who is engaged in cocoa farming by a relation and or then given out to a neighbour, friend or cocoa farmer for farming purposes

### **2.8.1 Causes of Child Labour**

The issues of child labour are more social-cultural phenomenon which is linked to developing economies and have drawn attention on a complex developmental issue worthy of research into. The mere mention that children are abused or exploited into forced labour and Worst Forms of Child Labour, while access to education is minimal or receive no attention is critical concern to people, institutions and countries.

Ghana as a developing nation is not exception for children being used as labourers, which has such peculiar problem that confronts it policy directions. Ghana is crippling with many economic activities of which children are put into labour. Child Labour in

Ghana cut across all parts of the country being rural and urban centres. Child Labour is of diverse ways and connotes different factors or attribute depending on the kind of activity. Essentially, many arguments raised about the causes of child labour are in similar directions.

The inference of poverty as a main cause of child labour in developing countries has partly subjected much attention to research into. Notwithstanding poverty as a major reason for children work in Ghana. Donnellan (2002) identified poverty, and exploitation of the poor as the central root of child labour. In his view families who are exposed to poverty often suffer ignorance of their rights. The phenomenon of social and cultural situations puts child labour as the inevitable fate of children born to poor families. Therefore, a child sees it right to support their families, of which are wrong.

Casely- Hayford (2004) in his study in cocoa growing area's outline that children drop out of school before completing basic education (J.H.S 3) due to lack of economic support by parents whether death or alive which throws them into full-time cocoa farming with their families and sometimes hire labour. The ILO Bureau of statistics, research indicates that "children's work is essential to maintaining the economic level of households, either in the form of work for wages, or help with household chores to allow parents to take up economic activities (Mehra-kerpelman, 1996:8). Mitesh and Badiwala (2009) opine that children works for wages in many cases which serves as income which sometimes accounts between 34% and 37% of the household income as a supplement to parents or guidance income earned. In this instance child labourer's income serves an important role in the livelihood of a poor household's income (Mehra-kerpelman, 1996). Children working due to poverty help to supplement

family's income, provide for themselves in schooling and for sibling and other family members.

Enrolling the services of children in work is cheaper than employing the services of adults; more so, this serves as a factor for farmers to take advantage of the children in labour. Donnellan (2002) ascribes that the willingness of children to accept lower wages to perform monotonous work in inadequate conditions is as a result of intimidation. Asiamah (2008) in his article on „Child Labour in Cocoa Farms“ observed that employing adult labour is expensive and the poor state of education system contributes to some causes of Child Labour. He maintained that employing adult is expensive and mostly in the cocoa farm, comes in the form of caretakers who in the discharge of duty will take one – third of the harvest, which seems expensive to the employers. In another vein, caretakers used their children to help them on the farm, since they could not maintain the farm alone and cannot also hire additional labour.

On the education system, the state of education was poor with very loose monitoring of teaching and learning through enrolment and attendance. This was a worry for parents and this informed them to put their children working in the farms than being in school without visible improvement.

In the instances of expensive adult labour Casely -Hayford (2004) argues that parent's inability to engage and hire the services of casual labourers or adult labourers on the farms employ the services of children. The child labour survey of the Ghana statistical service in 2003 puts out similar causes that are associated with the prevalence of child labour, which includes poverty and lack of income; lack of alternative forms of livelihood; poor parental care, poor qualities of services like health and education. In

their study parents and children indicated that gross policy measures could outwit this reason to engage in child labouring and put children back to school, more so parents anticipate government policy of creating wealth to reduce poverty.

GSS (2003) survey interviewed 2,314 street children, and the overriding factors pushing the children on the street to do work above their ability are as follows:

- Poverty and lack of income
- Lack of sustainable livelihood practices (both cash cropping and food cropping practice)
- Lack of alternative forms of livelihood
- Poor parental care and breakup of family
- Loss of parent due to death/stress in the family
- Poor quality of services (i.e. Education and health)

Lower quality or less access to education system is as well a contributing factor cited for child labour in Ghana's cocoa growing communities. The quality of education in the urban communities is of the highest determinant of sending children to school than in the rural schools. Odonkor (2007) in his study of addressing child labour through Education revealed that the social and economic cost of education is relatively high in rural communities. In the same report it points out that school environment that is not conducive for children, parents take the situation and send their children to farms instead of permitting them to attend school. It further revealed that illiteracy and ignorance of the parents and the entire community stage away the assistance needed to support their children in schools. However, the state of poor quality basic education in the rural areas attributes to disincentive for parents and farmers to put their children in school.

The causes of child labour as outline by many institutions, scholars and philosopher's point to similar concerns of which ILO-IPEC (2004) in its publication outline the following as some identifiable reasons for child labour:

- Family illness or incapacity to work
- Difficult family situations which could be single parent families
- Poor family values
- Low parental skill level (ILO-IPEC, 2004)

Edmond 2005 has similar views on the causes of child labour which includes poverty, struggling national economies, inadequate school facilities, the cheap cost of employing children, customary traditions and practices and effective legislation outlawing child labour. In some cases, poor families place their children in bonded labour in return for meagre advance payment from employers.

In developing countries, cultural traditions of gender discrimination also play significant role in child labour where parents have to decide who to educate, they usually choose their son over their daughters. They believe that upon marriage, daughters will no longer contribute to the family income and are therefore not wealth investing in girls are thus often drop out of school at a young age and sent out to work (Rau, 2002).

### **2.8.2 Impact of Child Labour and it Worst Forms**

It is incontrovertible fact that children's involvement in work has positive and negative effect on the child, parents and the nation at large. In analysing the consequence of child labour and its worst form must be waged in a broad spectrum. The kinds of work children perform determine how it positively or negatively affects the child or other factors. Bourdillon (2006) opines that it is more useful to see work

situations of children as a whole, to determine its benefit and harmful influence. UNICEF (1997) established that the impact of work on the child's development is a factor to determine whether such work becomes a problem. Adult work which is seen harmless is most times extremely harmful to children.

The exploitation of the vulnerable child denies them of their right to physical, emotional, cognitive, social and moral development. As cited in Shah, (1985:39) the Defence for children (DCI) joint report on child labour states that "normal growth stops during puberty and adolescence are adversely affected by poor nutrient intake and manual work which is of hazardous nature. Malinosky-Rummel and Hansan (1993) is of the view that the inevitable consequences of physically exploiting the child ranges from malnourishment, disease, muscular skeletal disorders, injuries and exposure to toxic agents, as well as stunted growth. Nangia (1991) assert that a study in the third world show that the effect of child labour in the immediate short term includes variety of health hazards such as bronchitis, asthma vision loss and stunted growth. Miell and KirKhorn (2005) in their research identifies that manual labour and material handling, example the use of sharp tools, application of pesticides and lack of protective clothing are practice by children in the cocoa production in Ghana. In view of that symptoms commonly reported following physical work subject children to major injuries and pain. Some associated injuries and pain includes eye injury, dislocated shoulder, wrist and arm fractures, and headaches.

Child's education is largely affected when they are involved Worst Forms of Child Labour. Naturally the combination of hazardous work and schooling do not go on well, educational development and academic performance are always affected, basic skills in literacy and numeracy diminishes. Basu and Van (1998) ascribe to the fact



that low attendance, illiteracy and low enrolment have developmental and performance implications and have been attributed to children's economic participation. In order to have a full cognitive development, quality, accessible education and training, should be the requisite requirement. Children participate in hazardous labour result in educational deprivation (Bequele & Boylor, 1988). Robson (2004) is of the view that child workers engaged in farming have lower school attendance.

Emotional, Social and Moral development of the child should be exercised in a free and conducive environment without oppressive rule, and it's evident that some children are forced to work against their will, which affects their emotions and attitude in the society. ILO-IPEC (2003:14) observed that child often suffers ill-treatment, abuse and neglect at the hands of their employers. Child labourers lack self-esteem and confidence, they do not feel a sense of belongingness, feel rejected and hopelessness in the community in which they live. It is normally observed that such children are not able to socialize with their peer groups who are not involved in labour.

Impact on child labour spread across many areas of which the country stands to lose at large, as Ghana's population is a youthful one and children age 5-17years constitute 33 percent of the total population of 26, 347: 424 million (GSS, 2013). This seeks to affect the nation's human resource, skilled manpower and productive workforce. This is because child labour and its worst forms deny the child to access education.

Bourdillon (2006) asserts that the Worst Forms of Child Labourer's educational opportunities are in limbo of which children's developmental talent and skills are realized upon. Therefore, the developmental prospect of the country is negatively

affected by the child's involvement in worst form of labour. Moreover, lack of necessary skills needed by children to be gainfully employed into work force results in social vices which are likely to put the country in disarray.

## **2.9. Social Intervention Programme/Policies to Combat WFCL in Cocoa**

Poverty is the major cause of child labour and its worst form among others needs to curb it. The government of Ghana has instituted social protection intervention to remedy the children involvement in labour.

Social protection policies are mainly public interventions that are designed to assist households, communities and individual to better manage the situation UNICEF (2008). Some of the government policies of intervention to combat Worst Forms of Child Labour issues are not geared towards the child and parents, but seeks to address household problems in general.

As various households is targeted and properly adhered to changes in individual's life. UNICEF (2009). Points that ensuring Social Protection measures are very important in the combat of child labour and its Worst form since it could savage the vulnerability of a household from involving children in labour, this supplement the incomes of the poor household.

Several of these policies are to empower the strength of families and households to alleviate economic hardship which entangle them invest their children in hazardous labour which help them gain some wages to supplement the household.

### **2.9.1 Ghana School Feeding Programme**

The programme as introduced in 2005 with the idea of providing all school going children with one hot meal per school day. The policy is geared towards the

achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goal (UN – MDG) on hunger, poverty and primary education MMYE (2008). It is undeniable fact that the programme is to boost school enrolment which is a prerequisite option to eliminate the involvement of children in labour since some children engage in labour because of hunger. The programme started in 2006 was piloted with 64, 775 pupils benefitting from the programme. A four (4) year period of the first phase was rolled out from 2007 – 2010, with 413, 498 pupils rolled out in the first phase and rise to 441, 189 pupils. By the end of 2009, the number has astronomically increased to 697, 416, also increasing the number of school attendance (GSFP 2011). Notwithstanding the rise in the number of pupils, it is faced with enormous challenges posed by the programme in respect to funding.

### **2.9.2 National Health Insurance Scheme**

This government policy legislated into action in 2004 through Act 650 of 2003 to provide equitable health insurance for all Ghanaians residents (MMYE, 2008). The insurance scheme was implemented to replace the cash – and – carry system, in which an individual only access health care upon making cash payment. The policy gave an exemption to children below the age of 5 from paying a premium as well as children between 5 to 17 years pay minimum amount below what adult pay as premium. The scheme as structured to provide essential services to pregnant women as such the unborn child is protected. The premium expected to be paid comparably to the Cash and Carry system is a token. Beneficiaries have to pay once a year to access all kinds of medical care. The policy is intended to bridge the gap of the poor household accessing medical care. This do away with the impediments where household with poverty spend less in accessing health care, therefore taking away pressure on children working to supplement the house for health services. Evidence at most

public health facilities indicate that between 70% and 80% of Outpatient Department (OPD) attendance is by NHIS card bearers while about 59% of admissions are also NHIS card bearers (NHIA, 2011).

### **2.9.3 Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)**

The Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment as one of its mandate to implement policies to meet the Millennium Development Goal launched the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty programme in March 2008, a component of social protection strategy to subsidize householders with monetary assistance to support income to poor homes. Currently, the target group for this programme includes the Orphans and Vulnerable children (OVCs), older persons over 65 years and peoples living with severe disabilities (MMYE, 2008; Baidoo, 2014). Though the programme is not targeted directly to children, but intended to serve as a supplement to household income which reduces the pressure on child's involvement in labour. The total cumulative enrolment of regular LEAP beneficiaries at the end of 2010 was 39, 423 households with an estimated population of 157, 689 and covering 83 districts in all the regions of Ghana (NDPC, 2010). The numerous social intervention policies and programmes adopted to help improve the living standards of households and a catalyst to eliminate child labour and its worst forms have one way or the other gain some achievements or address some challenges. Notwithstanding all this intervention and social protection policies the practices of Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa is prevalent.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter discusses the design adopted for the research problem. The population, sample, and the sampling techniques employed to give shape to the research questions are discussed here as the kind of data collection instruments employed. In addition, ethical issues relating to data collection and usage, reliability and validity of data collection are also dealt with in this chapter.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

For a thorough exploration of the research questions, the phenomenology research design is employed in studying child labour and its worst forms in the cocoa production areas in the Amenfi West District.

Qualitative research helps us understand the embedded actions of people's everyday lives in detail. It also de-mystifies problems through detailed interpretation of social actors' experiences (Barbour, 2013). In addition, qualitative research presents data from a number of sources and this serves as a basis for new concepts to be developed (Yin, 2010).

Qualitative research is normally grounded on the opinions, experiences and feelings of individuals and thus data collected is subjective. It also allows a more detailed and in-depth engagement with the subject under study. The researcher aims at exploring the experiences and phenomenon of Children in Worst Forms of Child Labour. As it is an attitude, behaviour and experiences which are important, fewer people took part in the research, but the contact with these people tends to last a lot longer. In

phenomenological studies one examines human experiences through the descriptions provided by the people involved. The goal of phenomenological study is to describe the meaning that experience holds for each subject, and this is used to study areas in which knowledge is a bit scanty (Donalek, 2004). Streubert and Carpenter (2002) assert that phenomenology is a science whose purpose is to describe particular phenomena, or the appearance of things as lived experiences. This expands the objective base of the study where children describe their experiences on working in cocoa farms. In this kind of research respondents are asked to describe their experiences as they perceive them.

Christensen, Johnson and Turner (2010) are of the view that the primary objectives of a phenomenological study are to explicate meaning, structure and essence of the lived experience of a person, or a group of people around a specific phenomenon. This work applies the same approach to determine the nature of activities of child labourers in the cocoa farms of Amenfi West District. It is preferable to use phenomenological design to explore whether farmers continue to engage children in the farms as there have been child's rights interventions and critically examine what children do on the farms and its human rights implications.

### **3.2 Population of the Study**

Amedahe (2000) defined a population as the entire aggregation of cases that meet a designated set of criteria. This study was conducted in three farming communities namely Wansema Camp, Koduakrom and Mmrakrom in the Amenfi West District in the Western Region of Ghana. The indigenous and immigrant peoples in the smaller communities in the district are predominantly farmers specifically cocoa farmers. The target population for the study are children involved in labour that are in its worst

form in cocoa production, farmers and parents who engage these children as well as some social workers who matter in educating and also in enforcing and implementing laws regarding child labour and its worst forms.

### **3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique**

Sampling is the process of selecting a subset of case so to draw conclusion about the entire set (Saifuddin, 2009). Non-probability sampling technique was employed to obtain relevant information about the real state of affairs regarding the phenomena. In non-probability sampling, samples are gathered in a process that does not give the individuals in the population equal chance of being selected (Creswell, 2009). To achieve the set objectives of the study, a sample size of thirty respondents was sampled purposively or selected to part take in the research. With the total number of thirty respondents, six children were selected from each of the three farming communities to know their opinions and hopes in respect to work they do; four employers of child labourers, one parent from each of the three communities and five officers from CHRAJ, Social Welfare, the NCCE, Labour office and some NGOs in the district to find out the extent to which Worst Child Labour impinges on the rights of child labourers and more so how the implementation of Worst Forms Child Labour laws effectively succeeded to stop the menace. Purposive sampling was adopted as the appropriate approach for the research. This is because through observation, some potential respondents may be identified. Extreme cases were focused on, to select unique or atypical participants who are believed to have had experiences and opinions in respect to the study to be researched. In qualitative research, the goal of sampling is to select participants, who are informative and will be useful for the topic under exploration (Jamison, 2010). Purposively three communities were sampled,

comprising of two communities without child rights intervention and one community selected from numerous communities who has received child right intervention.

### **3.4 Data Collection Instrument**

In collecting data for the study, it was prudent to employ interview as a primary source tool to address Worst Forms of Child Labourers in the cocoa sector. A direct observation schedule was also employed to facilitate the collection of data through direct visual contact with the respondents. These tools seek to help the researcher to engage in one on one interaction to probe into all the happenings and experiences the children are going through on the farms. This is important to get first-hand information at the different communities of the study. Through this step the children had the opportunity to share their ideas, experiences and their opinions on the work they do.

#### **3.4.1 Interview Guide**

Kvale (1996) and Badioo (2014) explain that qualitative research; interviews involve an effort to understand something from the subjects and to uncover the meaning of their experiences. The interview is necessary when the researcher feels the need to meet face- to-face with the participant or respondents to interact to unravel ideas of controversy. Corbetta (2003) opines that semi-structured interview is when the various topics dealt with and the wordings of questions are left to the interviewer's discretion. In using this interview approach, the interviewer prepares a list of topics and questions rather than a fixed or closed-ended questionnaire (Kvale, 1996; Baidoo 2014). This will be appropriate in this study since questions can be asked and some may be questions that have not been anticipated at the beginning of the interview. The primary respondents of this study need to be probed for their views and opinions.



Semi-structured interview granted the researcher the opportunity to probe to explore new paths which initially may not be considered (Gray, 2004).

### **Focus group**

Eliot and Associates (2005), opines that a focus group is a small group of six to ten people led through an open discussion by a skilled moderator. A focus group was important to be constituted since they share similar knowledge on the research topic. In focus group discussion, the researcher becomes more of a facilitator/moderator than an interviewer (Bell, 2005). Moreover, in the communities with child labour interventions, groups have been formed to implement and monitor the success of the intervention. The focus group here consisted of men and women in cocoa farming, Community Child Protection Committee and the Community- based Child Labour Monitoring.

### **3.4.2 Observation Schedule**

Marshall and Rossman (1995) define observation as "the systematic description of events, behaviours, and artefacts in the social setting chosen for study" (p. 79). The finding of the study as collected directly from child labourers and other stakeholders were done through observation. The researcher observed the activities children perform on the farm as it depicts WFCL to ascertain the reliability and validity of the claims these labourers outline. Observation is a very important method used for obtaining comprehensive data when a qualitative research is to be organized. Observation as a strategy will helped the researcher obtained first-hand information about subjects and events happening on the cocoa farm. Participant Observation is the process, enabling researchers to learn about the activities of the people under study in the natural setting through observing and participating in those activities (Dewalt &

Dewalt, 2002). The researcher intends to become a participant observer where he will live as a member of the subjects of study while observing and keeping notes of the attributes of the subject, as to directly experience the phenomenon being studied. It is through this strategy that the researcher would get first-hand experience with informants as to whether children's activities are really the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

### **3.5 Data Collection Procedure**

The researcher explained to the respondents how significant it would be for them to participate in the interview. On the interview day respondents were asked to answer some questions that were posed to them, as the researcher took notes of accounts of the respondents. The researcher visited the primary respondents at their places of work, homes and any place of convenient to see the real work they perform. Audio recorder was used to record all information given during interviews, while pictures of the child labourers was taken as evidence of the nature of work these children are engaged. Some information was obtained from published journal articles in the dailies, thesis and the internet. The researcher as well observed the activities that they do. On the other side, the parents and some employers were interviewed individually in their farms and homes on why they see it necessary to involve children in hazardous cocoa activities. More so focus groups comprising of parents, employers, children and CCPC and CCLM in the three communities were interviewed to know the nature of work children do, reasons for work, children experience during work and some child rights intervention. In the cocoa sector, there are two seasons for harvesting cocoa, the main and the light season. Data was collected during the main season for harvesting between October to December 2015. This is the peak season and children are mostly seen on the farm.

### **3.6 Data Analysis**

The study, as a qualitative research described and interpreted data mainly from the findings from interviewing and the observation to address the phenomenon under investigation. Kawulich (2004) identified five categories or stages of analysing data in qualitative research. They include narrative, coding, interpretation, confirmation and presentation. The study was narrated, interpreted and presented from the information gathered into salient themes under the four research questions and used the findings to address the research questions and describe the phenomenon under study. A simple percentage was employed to interpret data in various themes under the research questions, and audio tapes were being transcribed.

### **3.7 Ethical Considerations**

An introductory letter from the University of Education was given to the various stakeholders, including the NGOs, NCCE, Labour Department, Social Welfare and CHRAJ to seek their consent know the essence of the research. Moreover, the researcher explained the rationale of the study to all participants, especially the children in labour and their employers prior to the conduct of the study. In addition, the respondents were assured of confidentiality of information they give out. The participants, including the children, parents and the employers of the child labourers were protected from using their real names for references.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### FINDINGS

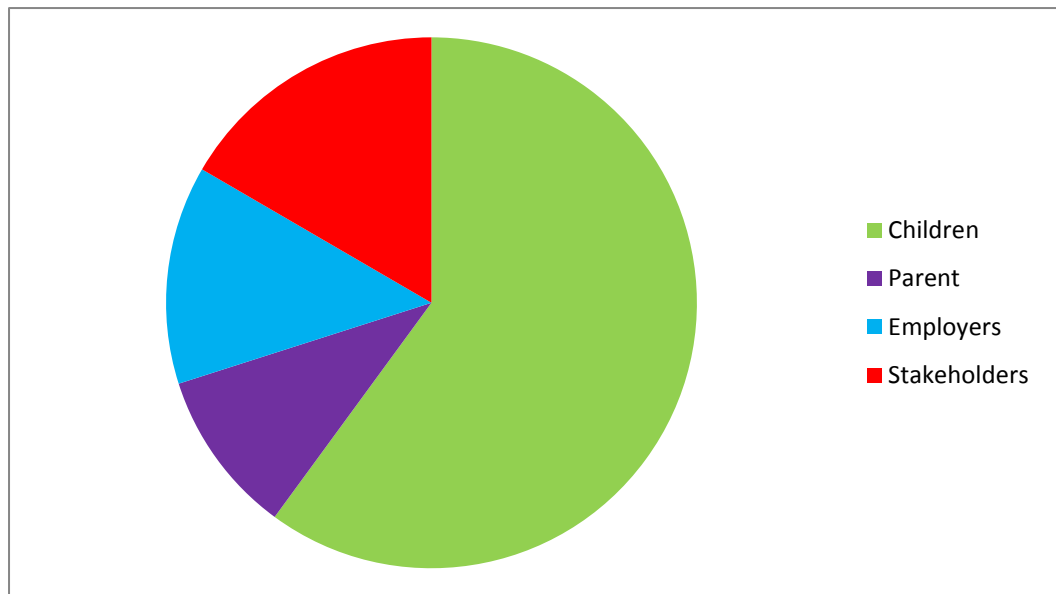
This chapter presents the results of the observation and interviews which took place in the three cocoa farming communities in the Amenfi West District, namely, Koduakrom, Wansema Camp and Mmrakrom. The findings are presented under the following headings: (a) demographic profile of the respondents, describing children's age, sex, educational background, parent's marital status, parent's occupation, (b) the nature of the Worst Forms of Child Labourer activities in cocoa production, (c) the push factors of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, (d) children's experiences of engaging in worst forms of labour as well as how (e) human rights interventions and legislations succeeded in its implementation.

The demographic profile is intended to highlight the background of the participants to shape the analysis, which is in line with the findings. This is to help to identify the problems and suggest recommendations.

#### **4.1 Demographic Profile of Participants**

Thirty respondents consented, and participated in the study. This comprises 18 children, 6 from each of the three farming communities, 4 employers, 3 parents and 5 stakeholders consisting of officials from CHRAJ, Labour Department, NCCE, Social Welfare and NGOs. The data are pictorially presented in terms of the percentage distribution of Figure 4.1 on the next page.

**Figure 4.1 Percentage Distribution of Participants**



With the total sample of thirty participants, children constituted about 60%, parents and employers formed 10% and 13% respectively, while the stakeholder's amount to 17%. Though the children's voices are critical to be heard since they are the main focus and at the centre of the study, and gave accurate information.

The parents and employers were also important in the data gathering process even though they felt reluctant to give accurate information during the interview as verified from the other participants. The stakeholders including officials from CHRAJ, NCCE Labour Department, Social Welfare and the NGOs were crucial to the study because they are the agents of implementing, monitoring and educating people on human rights laws and interventions. This is one of the research questions the study is attempting to answer.

#### **4.2 Ages of Children**

The age distribution of the children was categories in three groups, comprising the ages of 7-8 years, 9 – 12 and 13 – 16 years. The percentage distribution of the ages

was 11% between the ages of 7 – 8 years, 39% were between 9 – 12 years while 50% between 13 - 16 years of age.

**Table 4.1: The Age Distribution of Children**

<b>Age range of children</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
7 – 8	2	11
9 – 12	7	39
13 – 16	9	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>

Arguably children are supposed or allowed to do light work in various homes at the tender age below 13 years. The category of children between ages 7 – 16, within the study communities engaged in work that are hazardous and in worst form which pose danger and degrading treatment to them.

It is obvious that the children working under hazardous and bad conditions are vulnerable. The adults in society are fit to engage in such activities and not children and therefore, it is a violation of their rights. Nonetheless, the Worst Form of Child Labour is being practiced as way of children contributing their quota to family in terms of income.

### **4.3 Gender Distribution of the Children**

In the traditional farming communities male children are more involved in performing farming activities than female, but in cocoa farming activities in the study area, both males and females are made to perform different activities throughout the cocoa production, since there are different stages or activities from plantation to harvesting stages of cocoa production.

While the male children participate in all activities on the farms, female children were involved in breaking cocoa pods with sharp knives, fertilizer application, scooping of cocoa beans from the pod, fetching water for spraying agro-chemicals.

However, it was observed at Koduakrom community where there has not been any human rights education or intervention that 2 girls, aged 14 and 15 were using machetes for weeding and working with knapsack sprayer.

Statistically more males engaged in the cocoa farming activities that are in its worst form which influence the selection of participants where more males are selected. Among the 18 children, one female and five males were selected from Mmrakrom and Wansema Camp communities while two females and four males were selected from Koduakrom. Therefore, the total of four females and 14 males were selected for the study. In percentage terms 22% represents females and 78% represented males.

**Table 4.2: Gender Distribution of children**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Males	14	78
Females	4	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **4.4: Educational Background of Children**

The study shows that 12 respondents from Mmrakrom and Koduakrom and a child from Wansema Camp have dropped out of school representing 72% and the remaining 5 children are attending school and may help their parents in the farm on weekends and holidays representing 28%.

**Table 4.3: Level at which Pupils drop out of School.**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Basic 3 and 4	4	22
Basic 5 and 6	9	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>72</b>

The rate of children dropping out of school is a factor of children engaging in the worst forms of labour. Twenty two percent of children from basic primary 3 and 4 had drop out of school and 50% dropout at basic primary 5 and 6. The remaining 28% of children are in school, it revealed that these children's parents have been educated on the rights of the child therefore do no longer practice WFCL.

#### **4.5 Origin of Children**

From the responses of the children, 28% respondents were indigenes, while 72% were migrants from the Northern and the Brong Ahafo Regions of Ghana. This indicates that most of the children working on the cocoa farms are migrants.

#### **4.6 The Nature of Work Children Do**

The nature of work the children do and used to do in the three cocoa communities are of the same content and characteristics. The difference is that children from Wansema Camp Village/Community who have received intervention from NGOs, CHRAJ and other stakeholders implementing the human rights legislation do a little light work on the cocoa farms to help their parents and guardians on weekends. Work such as gathering cocoa pods, carrying cocoa pods to the breaking point, fetching water to spray the cocoa trees a day before the spraying day. The children from Koduakrom and Mmrakrom where there hasn't been child rights intervention do all the activities involved in the growing cocoa to harvesting stage.



Among the 12 children selected in these two communities, 83% indicated they are involved in the process of spraying with agro-chemicals using the motorized and knapsack spraying machines, as well as climbing cocoa trees higher than 2.5 meters to cut mistletoe (Krapan), applying fertilizer, breaking cocoa pods with sharp knives using machetes or long cutlass for weeding, pruning and the use of a tool known as “Go to Hell” to harvest overhead cocoa pods.

The remaining 17% of children report of doing activities considered as light work in the cocoa farm. A transcribe narration of a 14 years who dropped out of school in class 4 named Asaconda (not real name), and served as a labourer for the past three years with his uncle in Koduakrom, whose typical day’s activities is a text below.

I work with my father’s younger brother on his farm as a labourer, and work on other people’s farm as well. In my first year with my uncle, I cultivate a new land, fell trees, burn bushes to plant cocoa seedlings. I normally wake up as early as 5:00am, help in the house chores and go to the farm around 7:30am. I have a lot of responsibility, as I sometimes work on the new cultivated land and the other hand, work on the old cultivated cocoa farm my step father has planted. On the farm I use a cutlass for weeding and pruning, also climb trees to cut mistletoes (Krapan), during the application of the fertilizer, I carry the fertilizer from the roadside to the farm for about 3 kilometres, and sometimes apply it with the help of my step father on the farm the next day because it will be late after conveying the fertilizer. During the application of pesticide and other agro-chemicals, I fetch water and help in mixing chemicals in the motorized machine. Sometimes I help in spraying, but because the machine is heavy, I could do only two rounds while my father does the rest. But for the knapsack machine, I am made to use anytime the need arises most of time I work on the farm from 8:30 am to 11 am before we cook food to eat and continue to 4:30 pm or 5:00 pm.

**Table 4.4: Nature of activities on cocoa farm**

<b>The types of work</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>
1. Cultivation of the land	8
2. Uses of cutlass and machetes for weeding and Pruning and harvesting cocoa pod	12
3. Application of agro-chemicals and fertilizers	8
4. Breaking of pods and carrying heavy pods and beans for long distance	13
5. Scooping of cocoa beans and gathering pods only (light work)	6

The table gives the types of work the children in the three communities do. Activity 1 up to 4 from the table is classified as difficult and Worst Form of labour and need to be done by adults. Yet children as young as seven years who are to be given the needed care and attention because of their vulnerability are subjected to do these works which put them under physical and mental development threat.

The last activity performed by the 5 children in the table opine that these children do light work which is within their means and capability, indicating their communities are doing well with the implementation of child rights legislations.

The number of hours children work is dependent on the season and the particular activities being carried out. The children as well as the stakeholders comprising the NGO's, CHRAJ, NCCE, Labour department and the Social Welfare who have directly engaged the children indicate they work 5 – 9 hours daily on the farm. Apart from Wednesdays or Fridays which happen to be a taboo day, in any of the three different communities, farming work is done in all days of the week.

On the situation where children work for six days or less in a week, 44% work between 48 and 54 hours per week, 28% work between 36 and 42 hours per week while the other 28% work for less than 14 hours per week.

**Table 4.5: Working hours of children**

<b>Working hours per day</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>Working hours per week</b>	<b>No. of children (%)</b>
5 -8		Less than 14	28
6 – 7		36 – 42	28
8 – 9		48 – 54	44

The findings indicate that children working for less than 14 hours a week are working within the ILO Minimum Age Convention permissible hours and these children are from Wansema Camp where there has been child rights intervention, therefore children are seen in the cocoa farm on weekends and vacation especially on Saturdays.

The results also indicate that about 39% of the respondents are being paid for the work they do. A 56-year-old woman, Ama Donkor (not the real name) attests in the text below how she employs a 16-year-old boy and pays him for his services.

I have employed Abuu (not the real name) to help me on my cocoa farm because am old and cannot work; however Abuu services are very important. He is paid annually during the main cocoa season around October; November through his parents in the Northern part of Ghana He has worked in my farm for the past three years.

#### **4.7 Factors influencing the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa in AWD**

Different push factors contributed to children working in the worst conditions in cocoa growing communities. Poverty is a major problem families are facing in the communities interviewed. It was revealed that parents could not take proper care of their children, feeding, paying school fees and other things, including providing shelter and clothing. In view of that children have to take part in farming work including worst form of labour in cocoa production, to supplement family income and cater for themselves as well.

Kwame a 14 year old boy in Koduakrom who have not attended school at all for the past two terms, but work on the cocoa farm with other friends, when interviewed, had this to say:

“I live with my father in our village, I am a student but not punctual in school, I have been absent for the past two terms. I wish to go to school all the time, but have to work to buy my uniform, shoes and others. I work with my friends on people’s farm to do all kinds of activities to survive. More so I work in my father's cocoa farm to make things easy in the house, so as to feed ourselves”.

More so, it was revealed that some children work on the farms because their parents and employers are ignorant of the effects and implications of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa. Papa Kwaku (not the real name) a 53-year-old man told his story.

All my children have been working on the cocoa farm, and as of now the first two boys have their own cocoa farm, though they did not attend school they still work for money.

The data gathered also indicated that children work as cheap labourers compare to the adult workers in the community. Mr. Sam an NGO worker told me that in Wansema

Camp before the implementation of human rights intervention, people employed the services of thirteen to seventeen years old boys to do all the difficult activities in the cocoa farming because they pay little to these children since they could do all work given to them.

Respondents of the study had similar views on children working to learn and practice on family business.

Some parents indicated that their children should learn on the job so as to keep the land they have acquired from the land owners.

It was revealed that children coming from single parenting homes were highly involved in the Worst Forms of Child Labour because their mothers were finding it difficult to cater for their needs due to inadequate household income. A parent Akua Badu said her husband has divorced her and she is the only person left to take care of three children, in view of that she has to engage his elder child at age 15 to work on people's cocoa farm to supplement the income level so as to help his younger siblings attend school.

In one extreme case, it was found that a man has to put his son to work to repay a debt he contracted when his father died; this money was used for funeral arrangement back in the Upper West Region of Ghana. This was due to the fact that the man could not pay as he promised therefore his son was expected to work for six months in a cocoa farm doing all sort of activities.

**Table 4.6: Push factors for the WFCL**

<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Poverty	18	100
Ignorance of the effect of WFCL in cocoa	8	44
Sources of cheap labour	13	72
Continue family business	6	33

Table 4.6 indicates that all children sampled for the study work on the cocoa farm as a result to poverty in the family system. Therefore, they have to work to take care of themselves, support family income and other things. Also, 44% of the children work because their parents are ignorant of the effects of WFCL in cocoa, moreover 72% of the total children work as a source of cheap labour in their different communities, while 33% work as a result of continuing family business.

#### **4.8 Experiences of Children Engaging in WFCL in Cocoa**

The children in the three communities in the study area have a lot of experience and have several opinions about the work they do on the cocoa farms. The study indicates that the children do difficult cocoa farming activities which are above their capabilities. These children work for long periods of time on the farms, and sometimes go hungry due to inadequate food given to them. Some children complained that because of the difficult nature of some activities, they are unable to finish the task given them, especially when they are contracted by employers for a day's work popularly called "By Day" therefore they are cheated out of the money they are supposed to get.

It also emerged that the children are exposed to health hazards. This is because they are subjected to many injuries because they are not protected during working hours. Physical injuries such as snake bites and wounds contracted from cutlass and other tools, and inhaling of chemicals during spraying are common. Kwesi Asana, a (12) year old boy had to say this;

In fact, during the major cocoa season, we harvest a lot of cocoa bean; I am subjected to injuries with the tools I work with. One morning I happen to harvest overhead cocoa pod from a long cocoa tree, with the long harvesting tool “Go to hell” and unfortunately the sharp part locks up the tree, therefore I have to climb the cocoa tree to bring it down. Unlucky for me after removing the sharp part I slip and fell down with the tool and was injured a deep cut, so I have to stay home for about 6 weeks.

Some children expressed the wish to stop working in the cocoa farms entirely but others prefer to work on the farms but to do light work. Mr. Ackon the CHRAJ boss in the District revealed that during his engagement with children in the community some prefer to work to help their parents, by doing light work such as picking and gathering cocoa pods, helping with cooking and serving food as well as filling plastic bags with black soil. The children raise a concern to be in school or learn some trade either than farming. The district labour officer reiterated that the children plight is not an option, since they do not get any formal education (as they are dropping out of school), and therefore the future and destiny is in the hands of their masters. The children are of the opinion that the cocoa farming activities will not help them, but they have no option. Asancodwa, 14 years, shares his opinion:

I know this cocoa farming business will not help me to achieve my goal of becoming a banker, because my elder brothers who started weeding at my age are still not rich. Therefore, I wish to stop and attend so that I can become a teacher or a banker.

#### **4.9 To What Extent Has Human Rights Intervention and legislation Directed at WFCL in Cocoa Succeeded.**

Children in the study areas are subjected to different forms of human rights right from the recruitment onto the farms. The data collected indicates that, the abuses meted on some of the children includes trafficking, thus transporting a child from one region to another. Lack of education, where children are drop-out since the work they do don't permit them to attend school at the same time, and some may attend, once or twice a week.

The CHRAJ officer during an interview revealed that before the implementation of child rights intervention in some communities, a child he came across was bonded to prepare a land for cocoa farm to defray a debt incurred by the dead father from the Upper West Region.

More so, the children caught up in these activities are exposed to health hazards, where severe injuries are meted on them, inadequate food and poor shelter. The Labour Officer revealed that, in one of their intervention communities a girl aged fifteen years was used as a sex provider to the employers and other neighbours in the community.

Education on the effects of WFCL in relation to the fundamental human rights of children has been done in most of the communities in the district. Also, sensitization programmes for children to know their rights and the parents to know why they are



not supposed to take their children to farm, but to school during instructional time. There has been awareness creation in communities on the effect of WFCL and the rights of the children. Some level of local radio interaction has been done and on-going.

On the implementation of the WFCL laws has been a requisite engagement for the collaboration of District Child Labour Protection Committee, including the Labour Department, Social Welfare, NGO, CHRAJ and the NCCE for the elimination of the canker. In the quest to eliminate the menace a Community Child Protection Committee has been set up to implement some bye-laws protecting the children's rights, and implementing Community Action Plan.

During the data collection proceedings in the Wansema Camp community with child rights intervention, I observed that the Community Child Protection Committee has sat on a case involving a man who had just been to the community to do cocoa farming with a fourteen-year-old boy helping in the weeding of the farm during the school instructional time.

Though much has been done on the implementation process, some challenges were faced, indicating that, some kind of apathy on the part of the parents and employers in revealing relevant information. As well some Community Child Protection Committee has weak leaders to enforce the Bye-laws protecting the rights of the child.

More so, the financial constraints in executing the education and monitoring aspects of the implementation programme sometimes became a problem, though it managed to achieve the set goals of implementing WFCL laws in cocoa in the district.

On the side of participants, such as parents and employers did not cooperate in revealing information on the activities that children perform. Nevertheless, the methods of data collection revealed the real facts from children. Children, parents and employers were put into focus group discussion at different times.

It emerges that communities with human rights intervention, parents and employers no longer engage the children in the WFCL, in the cocoa activities. In these communities one out of 100 children works without the knowledge of other people. Notwithstanding, parents have turned to engage the children in some light work under their supervision, children in these areas now know their rights. A 14-year-old Kwabena share his story during my encounter with him:

I live with my mother's brother in this community for the past seven years, until the last two years I worked in my uncle's cocoa farm where I weed, pluck cocoa pods with cutlass and "Go to hell", help with the spraying of pesticides, applying fertilizer and sometimes help in the initial preparation of land, planting cocoa seedling. After some officials came to our community and talked to us about child labour, my uncle no longer engaged me in the difficult activities. Though I am grown up, but have decided to attend school. At the moment I am in class 3. This time my uncle takes me to cocoa farm only on weekends and on vacation.

This is happening only in communities that have child labour education. Despite the challenges facing various stakeholders in the quest to minimize or eliminate the WFCL in cocoa production in the Amenfi West District, the data has proved that the implementation of legislation has been successful and yielded positive impact. Direct observation during the data collection at the peak session of cocoa planting and harvesting is an indication that areas of child rights interventions are doing well in terms of minimising the phenomenon. This is due to the fact that children are always seen in

schools and work on the farms on weekends, unlike the study areas without child rights intervention. Children in areas of intervention only help in the gathering of cocoa pods, carrying small amount of pod to the breaking point, fetching water for spraying before the activities start.

In a focus group discussion in the Wansema Camp with human rights intervention, this is what some members of the group had to say.

Before some NGO's came to our community to educate us, almost all of us engage our children on the cocoa farm during school hours, and even after the cocoa peak season in October, November, December and January. Sometimes parents work on the farm together with their children as they do all sort of work. The officials advise us not to allow children engaged in activities including spraying, plucking of overhead cocoa, breaking pod with sharp knives and others. The NGO's introduce a programme known as "YEN DAAKYE" meaning our future. Sensitising us how important our children's future should be prioritise. Our children are now schooling, and help in the farm on Saturdays.

The text is an indication that areas with child labour interventions have seen improvement in the elimination of WFCL in cocoa. More to that the stakeholders of the District Child Labour Protection Committee is of the view that there has been an increase in enrolment in schools in the areas they have been able to extend intervention to, therefore citing that the children are now confident to report parents who are try to engage the children in WFCL activities.

They also indicated that, they are yet to extend their intervention to other communities if there is an approval from the international communities.

An encounter with the District Labour Officer, gave an assertion that parents are now reporting to them that their children are „spoilt“ meaning that they do not want to work any longer in the cocoa farm. This is an indication that the knowledge of child labour and its worst form is receiving some kind of elimination.

#### 4.10 Marital Status of Parents

Among the children selected for the study, 6 of them representing 33.3% have their parents still married, nine representing 38.8 % have parents divorced and five representing 27.8% were orphans living with their extended families.

**Table 4.7: Marital status of children’s parents**

Status of Children	Total number of Children	Percentage
Married	6	33.3
Divorced	7	38.8
Widowed	5	27.8

In the total distribution 66.6% constitute children from single parent comprising of parents who are divorced and dead. As indicated earlier, income level of household forms a major component on the decision, children work, particularly in Ghana (Ray, 2000; Harrison 2012). Single parenting on the farming communities contribute to children working. Because of lower incomes the parent received since there is only one source of income generation instead of two parents.

#### 4.11 Educational Background of Children’s Parents

Regarding the educational level of children’s parents, eight representing 44.4% completed basic education whiles 55.6% have never been to school. This suggests that the illiteracy level of parent is a factor in why children are being put into labour.

According to the NCCE some parent's ignorance level on the effect of worst forms child labour engaged children in work which poses treat to their development.



## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the discussion of the data collected through interviews, public documents and observations which were conducted at the three cocoa farming communities of the Amenfi West District namely Koduakrom, Wansema Camp and Mmrakrom. The description of the findings includes the nature of the Worst Forms of Child Labour practice in cocoa, the factors resulting in the practices of the Worst Forms of Child Labour; the experiences of children working under such conditions and how successful the human rights interventions and legislation directed at WFCL curb the phenomenon in the district.

#### **5.1 The Nature of Work Children do on the Cocoa Farm**

The aim of the researcher was to find out the Worst Forms of Child Labour that children within the cocoa producing communities of Amenfi West District engage in. Three communities were selected from the district comprising Koduakrom, Wansema Camp and Mmrakrom that have similar types of work that children are engaged in except Wansema Camp, which has some child rights interventions education, and some withdrawal cases.

The findings of the study indicated that tree felling, bush burning, working with agro-chemicals for spraying farms, using machetes and cutlasses for weeding and pruning, harvesting and breaking of pods with sharp knives, cutting mistletoe, fertilizer application and working without protective clothing during working hours were the main activities children do in these communities. About 67% of the children who

responded to the study indicated majority were directly involved in the activities that conform as Worst Forms Child Labour; while 33% are involved in light work or work not considered as hazardous to their health and education. In the past, children's involvement in labour which was hazardous was considered as a duty or cultural or traditional responsibility which seeks to sustain the family, and also to learn skills and become responsible. Before the advent of human rights interventions, all these activities which are detrimental to the child were practised.

All these activities were categorised as child labour that are detrimental and hazardous to the health of the children and classified as the Worst Forms of Child Labour where several laws and Conventions were constituted to criminalize such activities and subjected parents and employers who involved children in such works were punishable by law.

Grimsrud (2002) realized that in the past, child labour was seen merely as a labour issue, but the adoption by the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1989 has taken on a more human right approach.

Many countries including Ghana after ratifying ILO Conventions on the Worst Form of Child Labour have enacted laws and Conventions to regulate human rights abuses and violations. The Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment released hazardous Child Labour Activity Framework for the cocoa sector to include clearing of forest and felling of trees, bush burning, working with agrochemical, breaking of pods with sharp knives and other activities.

Article 3 (d) of the ILO Convention 182 explicitly captures what is defined as „Worst Forms of Child Labour“. Furthermore, the Worst Forms of Child Labour

Recommendation Convention R190 supplementing Article 3 (d) of Convention 182, suggest some hazardous forms of child labour to include work which exposes children to physical and psychological abuse, work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads, work in an unhealthy environment which way, for example, expose children to hazardous substances agents or processes, work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours (R190, Section II.3a-e). However, children from the two out of the three communities selected in the district are exposed to the Worst Forms of Child Labour per the information presented.

The ILO Convention stipulates that children can do some light work within some acceptable hours of working in the cocoa farm and related activities. The ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age permits children between the ages of 13 and 15 years to do light work for less than 14 hours per week that are not likely to be harmful to their health and development and not prejudice their schooling. The age distribution of children in the study area given by Table 4.1 and indicates that 50% of children were between 7 and 12 years, and are not permitted by the Convention 138 to engage in light work.

Seventy two per cent of children from Table 4.5 indicate that they work between 36 hours and 54 hours per week which is in contravention of the ILO's permissible hours of children engaging in light work. . However, 28% of children, according to Table 4.5 work less than 14 hours per week. These categories of children indicated during the interview that their parents and other guidance involved them in labour take them from schooling. However my engagement with NGOs, labour officers, CHRAJ and other stakeholders, parents have stopped engaging children in hazardous work in the



cocoa farming which prevent them from schooling. More so it revealed that children work on the cocoa farms only weekends and holidays or vacations carrying out light work such as heaping of cocoa pod, and scooping of cocoa beans. This indicates that, parents and other employers in the cocoa farm act in conformity with several ILO Conventions due to human rights education.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child outlines fundamental rights for children including the right to protection from economic exploitation in full work, (CRC, 1989). As well the 1992 Constitutions of Ghana provides protection to the Ghanaian child. Article 28(2) of the Constitution states “every child has the right to be protected from engaging in work that institutes a threat to his health, education or development.

The ordeal of Asancodwa (not the real name) at Koduakrom attests that children in the study communities where there hasn’t been any child labour intervention engaged in labour that are in its worst forms which do not only pose psychological threat, but endanger them into physical injuries. The use of machetes for pruning and weeding subject the children to physical injuries on them as well as the climbing of cocoa trees to cut mistletoes pose several health issues to the child’s development.

The practice of children participating in the application of pesticides on the cocoa farm subject them to several health implications such as headaches, burning eye and skin, dermal rashes, coughing, nausea and dizziness. Asancodwa reports of several pains in the arms, shoulder, back and neck after using spraying machine to spray pesticide on the cocoa farm. This is an indication that children’s rights to health and development is abused is in contravention to human right laws. Severe injuries on

children and physically unfit children do not have the ability to grow well to fit into the society.

According to Waters and Wilkins (2004) children's exposure to excessive physical work demands involving forceful activities and repetition without an adequate recovery time has adverse effect with activities of daily living and has negative long-term economic consequence to the individual and community. This is to say that this group of children will be economically handicapped since their health implications do not support their working condition.

Kwame a 14-year-old boy at Mmrakrom reported of physical injury and cut when, one afternoon, he was harvesting a cocoa pods with this long harvesting tool called "Go to Hell" got seriously injured when the sharp edge removed from the stick and cut the foot, so he had to lay down for three months before he could work on the farm. This health condition of Kwame kept him from wearing shoe because of pains. Similarly, a survey in Cote D'Ivoire , notes that children in cocoa farming aged 6-12 years had experienced machete cuts with serious injury (Hatloy & Aiello, 2008)

A report from Tulane University that assessed data collected during 2008-2009 harvest season in cocoa in Ghana, identify about 997,357 children aged 5 to 17 were estimated to be working and 54 percent or 538,297 of these children were estimated to be reporting injuries from dangerous activities (UNESCO, 2014).

Through the observation by the researcher during the data collection period, children under age 14 were seen carrying heavy loads of cocoa beans to a distance of two kilometres to dry the beans. The child complained how heavy the load he was conveying and felt very tired. The Convention 184 concerning safety and health in

agriculture prohibits the engagement of manual handling or transport of load, which by reason of its weight or nature is likely to jeopardize the safety or health of the person carrying the load.

This Convention prohibits the carrying of loads that are above the capacity of children, which may jeopardize the health of the child. Kwame (not the real name) narrated his story that he felt seriously sick with pains at his neck, backbone which made him lay in the house for about two weeks after carrying dried cocoa beans to the purchasing clerk which weighs 2bags 30kilos for four times within a period.

This is an indication that parents and employers of children are in contravention of the ILO Convention and others, and laws that prohibits children in the Worst Forms of Child Labour. The antecedent to the discussion, given reasons that we have no choice but to deliver a guilty verdict that the majority of children working, in two out of the three communities under study are working or engaging in the Worst Forms of Child Labour and that needs to be eliminated in the premise of the type of work they do as well as the number of hours used to work.

Whereas it is identified that the work children do in the study area in respect to cocoa farming are mind boggling, it turns out that it is not peculiar to the communities in Amenfi West District; rather it is a norm in many cocoa farming communities all over the world cultivating cocoa.

Owusu (2011) researched into child labour in cocoa farms and its human rights implications in the Jakai traditional area in the central region indicates that children in Jakai work in cocoa farms for long hours between 40 to 56 hours per week with pay,

carrying heavy cocoa beans, applying pesticides, cutting down trees to clear land and weeding the plantation.

To sum up, the nature of work practiced on the cocoa farm by children in the study area is similar in other parts of the country and other countries. The data collected from the study area indicate that children are subjected to atrocious condition which is detrimental to their health development and damages their emotions. It was revealed through the findings that per the ages of children, numbers of hours per week, the nature of the work practiced by these vulnerable children are in contravention to ILO Conventions that deal with eliminating Worst Forms of Child Labour such as the Minimum Age No.138 Conventions. The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 182 and the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child, as well as Ghana 1992 Constitution Article 28.2 are in determination of work children should do which is within the capacity of the child.

## **5.2 Factors Influencing the Worst Forms of Child Labour in AWD**

The data within the study area indicates children's engagement in the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa. It is imperative to know the motivating factor of children being thrown into WFCL in cocoa that are considered to be detrimental to their health.

Comparatively, all the thirty respondents to the study gave out similar reasons that compel them to engage in the Worst Forms of Child Labour. From the deduction of the response the following were outlined, poverty, ignorance of the effect of the WFCL on the children by parents and the peoples that engage these children, source of cheap labour and continuation of the family business. The causes of children

working in cocoa farms in the Amenfi West District have similar causes of child labour in different part of Ghana.

Vandenberg (2007) under the ILO outline low household income (poverty), demand from household, and parents need help working in their plantation to some extent, factors contributing to the child's involvement in labour and its Worst Form

More so ILO (2004) in its publication identify some causes of child labour and its worst form as follows

- Difficult family situations which could be single parent families
- Low parental skill level
- Family illness or incapacity to work

Grootaert and Kanbir (1995, 2015) argue that child labour is an integral part of the household's risk management strategy, poor household with little savings, little access to credit and a limited asset base faced harsh repercussion from job losses and other shocks on the household income and hedge against this risk by sending children to work. It is these indications that drive common reasons that put children into child labour and its worst form.

### **5.2.1 Poverty**

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including clothing and medical care (UDHR Article 25). Upon the declaration of the UDHR all human beings need access to some basic necessities such as water and safe food, shelter-, medical care and other factors that contribute to the physical, mental and cognitive development.

Pogge (2007) opines that all humanity has the right to basic necessities in life to fulfil one needs, therefore severe poverty that puts humans into the nonfulfillment of their needs is a human rights violation. In the realization of children's right to survive and develop, the odds are stacked against those from the poorest and most disadvantaged households. Children in the study area engaged in WFCL outlined the specific reason that made them enter into hardship rather than going to school. The reasons children engage in labour at the expense of their education, represent the determinant of economic hardship on the level of poverty.

**Table 5.1: Why children work in the Amenfi West District**

<b>Why children work</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
To take care of myself	6	33
Work only on weekend to help parents	5	28
To supplement the family income	7	39

From the table 13 out of the 18 children in the study are directly involved in the Worst Forms of Child Labour, whereas the remaining 5 children are not working as labourers. Among the 13 children involved in WFCL, 33 percent confirmed that they work to take care of themselves due to inability of their parents or guardians to support them.

Abena (not real name), a 13-year-old girl from Koduakrom who drop out of school in class 4 due to inability of the grandmother to pay his exam fees and give her feeding money during school days. Her father died and his mother has also travel, leaving her with the grandmother. She said "am working on people's cocoa farms to harvest the cocoa pod, weed and carry cocoa beans in order to buy food, clothing and other

needs, my grandmother asks me to work because she is not having money to cater for all my needs.

A 14-year-old Atta Kofi (not real name) a drop out also works to feed and cater for himself and other needs in his response to the question I ask why are you working. This is what he had to say

My parents have divorced, and my father complains of my mother leaving him to marry another man in the Brong Ahafo Region therefore he has nothing doing with me. Therefore, I stay with my mother`s sister who is also a sickler, so I have to work as a labourer to feed myself and sometimes provides her with some money “

This is an indication that these children are working to feed themselves, buy clothing and other things due to the level of poverty. However, seven children representing 39 percent indicated that, they are into work in support of their inadequate family income since their parents and guardians were not profitably earning reasonable income.

Kwame 14-year-old boy told his story that

I stay with my father who is not able to work on his farm regularly due to an accident he had six years ago. Therefore, I always go to cocoa farm to work and get money to supplement what he got from his farm. Because of his condition he cannot cultivate a new land, but depends solely on me and his old cocoa farm. Sometimes I attend school for only three weeks for the whole term, as and when I get enough to feed myself and support my father.

Asancodwa (not real name) 14-year-old boy from the northern Ghana, who stays with his father`s younger brother response to why he worked; this way;

I work for money and send part to my parents and my siblings back home in support of the home keeping and cater for my siblings. My parents had given birth to nine children, and am the fourth born, so my father has sent me to his younger brother here to work with him on his cocoa farm preparation and other farms as well when ever am given a job to do. I know my parents are poor; therefore, I have to help them cater for my younger siblings. I am paid at the end of the year by my father`s brother, so he will give me one tenth of the money and send the rest to my parent and any time I work on others farm I send the money to them to support the income in the house.

Again the data in the Table 5.1 indicates five children representing 28 percent were observed as working on the cocoa farm on weekends and school vacations. They were seen as doing light work on the farm such as cooking food whiles their parents work, heaping cocoa pods, fetching water for spraying pesticides and carrying small amount of fermented cocoa beans for drying. These activities were observed in Wansema Camp community which has human right intervention from the stakeholders.

Michael (not the real name) a 15-year-old boy in J.H.S shared his story;

I worked on my parent`s cocoa farm about 5 years ago, I weeded, planted cocoa seedlings, harvested cocoa pod, and broke cocoa pod and other activities. Because of that I attended school twice in a week in the cocoa peak season. But now my parents don`t take me to the cocoa farm on school days and I have stop doing difficult activities, this is because officers from the district capital were in our village to educate we the children and our parent not engage us in the cocoa farm until we are 18 years,



From Michael's submission it is presupposed that the education and advocacy on the human rights intervention in his communities by these stakeholders took their inspiration from the ILO Conventions on the Minimum Age, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention on the Rights of the child as well as national laws in respect to the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. From the observation, interview and other public documents relevant to the topic.

#### **5.2.1.1 Break up Homes**

Table 4.7 made emphasis on the marital status of the children's parents, which showed that out of the 18 children sampled, seven of them were from broken homes representing 39 percent of which is an undeniable fact that children from those homes are directly involved in child labour and its worst forms. Broken homes have effects on the children and the single parents' economic situation. A 14-year-old boy Kwasi (not real name) told his story.

My parents divorced when I was nine years, I stay with my mother, and she was not working so I have to work on people's cocoa farm to feed myself and my mother. My father does not care about me because he married another woman and he takes care of that woman's children. Indeed, I do all sorts of work on the cocoa farm.

The Ghana Living Standards Survey Round 6 in 2014 indicated that two tenths of the children sampled for their survey came from broken homes therefore are involved in hazardous cocoa activities. Children from divorced homes or separated parents have less success and happiness (Ghana Statistical Service, 2014)

Hadi (2000 as cited in Aktar, 2013) explores the prevalence and determinant of child abuse in rural Bangladesh. He found that 21% of the children sampled for his survey

were into labour due to broken homes, although the Bangladeshi laws prohibited child labour. The indication from the Table 4 again implies the children are left with one single parent which is usually mothers. There is economic deprivation on parents when they experience low income, therefore pose economic burden on the children as well. This becomes difficult for single parent, usually mothers to take care of their children, hence engage them into child labour and its worst forms.

#### **5.2.1.2 Parent's Occupation and Low Educational Background**

Parents' occupation plays a significant role in the determination of becoming an economic handicap which has a ripple effect on the income. The parent sampled for the study indicated that they only work on a subsistence farm; thereby do not receive income apart from farming. This means, parents of the children are regarded living in poverty, thereby are economically insecure.

Steger (2000) denoted that subsistence consumption denotes a standard of living that allows for the satisfaction of the minimum, physical and mental, basic needs of life. It is imperative to reckon with the parent's standard of living on the effect on their children. Low income due to the occupational structure pushes parents into poverty, as poverty is noted as a major factor for children working under hazardous and uncondusive environment.

Edmonds and Turk (2002) find a correlation between living standards improvement and decline in child labour during the 1990s in Vietnam. In the study area cocoa farming is the major occupation practiced, therefore after the peak season in the cocoa farming, parents become unemployed, and therefore their income base reduced thus rendering them dependent on their children support.

The situation that puts children in labour due to parental low income is in conformity with the (Basu & Van, 1998) luxury axiom policy where it states that a family will send the children to the labour market only if the family's income from non-child-labour sources drops very low "rather the substitution axiom which implies that child labour and adult labour are substitutes this is referred to wealth paradox"" (Bhalatrax & Heady, 2003 as cited in Fan, 2011).

Again education plays an important role in the improvement of the social and economic status of people. Education bridges the level of enlightenment and improvement of socio-economic lives of the people in Ghana. Parents' educational background affects their income and transient onto their children. Higher education is of a higher probability of parents increasing their family income. Maag and FitzPatrick (2004) argue that over the past two decades "parents with higher education have primarily benefited from higher income.

Parental education level is an important predictor of a child's success, educational and behavioural outcome (Davis-Kean, 2005). From this perspective, parents low educational background directly affect their income base, therefore, it becomes difficult to cater for their children, where it leads children into child labour and its worst form. From the findings of the study, the parents and guardians apparently lacked education that may lead them into professional or extra employment outside their farming work. On the other hand, children's inability to attend school further leads to lower income earning therefore renders them in poverty which connotes children into hazardous labour.

According to Table 4.3 13 out of the 18 children sampled had dropped out of school, whereas the remaining five are still in school because the parent has stop engaging

them in hazardous labour. 72 percent of the children indicated that they drop out of school before junior high school, 22% of the children drop out before basic five, as well as 49% manage to complete basic five and six. These findings show how the children had low level of education. Though the 1992 Constitution of Ghana grants the child compulsory basic education, as they progress, education turns to be cash intensive, hence due to low income of families“ children will not have the opportunity to continue their education

The low wages of families increase the probability of their offspring being sent to work, in such cases child labour and poverty are passed on from generation to generation (Nyarko, 2013). Jafrey and Lahiri (2001) give description of low advance education improves the economic situation of people, and finalized that lower level education is a catalyst for poverty.

### **5.2.1.3 Children as Debt Bondage**

Children from poor homes are sometimes used as a security against loans contracted from friends, well to do people and others. Children used for repayment of parental debt have been widespread since ancient times and has flourished at various periods in most countries (Bales, 2002). Article 3a of the convention 182 outlined debt bondage as a Worst Forms of Child Labour. This is the act of putting children to work to repay a loan contracted by a family. The study revealed that only one child was working in others to repay a debt his father owns the employer. It was revealed that a child of 16 years was working assiduously for a 62 years old cocoa purchasing clerk as a settler of the parent“s debt. The researcher came into contact with that employer after someone revealed to me the incidence when the employer Agya Ben was asked

why the child was working. He first denied but after further interrogation accepted to tell his story.

I purchase cocoa beans from the farmers in my area, therefore farmers I worked with borrowed money from me and pay during the major or peak season of harvesting cocoa. Kwame Bugri (not the real name) borrow two bags of cocoa amounting to Gh¢ 900 and promised to pay later. But two years now Bugri hasn't pay the money. Therefore, it was agreed that his elder son work on my farm for two years to repay the money.

Agya Ben accepted the child to work on his farm, though he was not happy with that decision, but it was the only opportunity to reclaim his money, because he didn't want the money to go waste. The amount borrowed was to be paid in two years before the child could be released to the father. When the child was asked why he was working, he gave the indication that his father needed money to supplement the house income and also to use it in paying school fees of his younger siblings. This is an indication that the child was not told the truth for his working in the cocoa farm. The boy's father when questioned why he used the child to settle debt noted;

In fact, I didn't want to borrow money and use my son to serve as a security. But I needed money seriously to solve a problem, the reason being that my father had died and needed money to attend the funeral since been the only male born of my father. After I returned from the funeral it became difficult to settle the debt. I decided to engage my first born to settle the debt since he is a dropped out from school, while I work to feed the other children.

Although the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 182 criminalizes this practice and must be discouraged, it was surprising that the father did not find anything wrong

with such act. On the other hand, the employer who is a cocoa purchasing clerk had knowledge that it is criminal, yet he agreed to the child being used to settle debt, because he needed his money. Bonded labour creates a cycle of poverty that can continue for generations and leave multiple generations without access to education or a choice of jobs.

### **5.2.2 Ignorance of Parents and Children on the Effect of Worst Form Child Labour on Children.**

Children's involvement in the WFCL as said earlier has been an old ageing business. One motivating factor that pushes children in labour is in respect of parents not knowing the implication on the children involved. In the study area, a focus group of eight men and six women discussed why they involve children in such labour in cocoa without putting them in school told their story.

Papa Kojo (not the real name) indicated that their children work on the farm to be more knowledgeable in the field, as a matter of that if they get injured it will strengthen them in the field. (53year-old man).

Maame Ako (not the real name) it is better to allow our children to work in the farm; because not everybody can be in school, and it is not automatic that one can become rich only if he or she attends school. (46years old woman).

Opanin Sarkodie (not the real name) there is nothing wrong using children on the farm if they did not help I am responsible to do everything for them. I did not give to my children to worship them. Therefore, it is their duty to work.

The men and women of this focus group in Koduakrom demonstrate their ignorance of involving their children. Parents lack knowledge of the harmful effects of child

labour and its worst form in the physical and emotional development of young children (Khan & Murray, 2007). Owing to ignorance, some parents have subjected their children to hazardous labour that instead of making them economically sound rather lead to economic hardship.

Donnellan (2002) maintains that many parents for the sake of ignorance, sending their children to school is not an option since education is expensive for them, therefore engage children into labour at the expense of education.

A study in Tanzania shows that ignorance of parents towards children in labour was high. The UNICEF and ILO in 2006 worked to raise awareness of the harmful effects on child labour and its worst forms through parenting education initiative in the Republic of Tanzania. The education was based on the ignorance of parents on the effects of labour in most forms of child labour on children through support, training and mobilization for representative from NGOs and other human rights groups to build the capacity of the parents and communities to devise ways to put children in school.

In the interview with the stakeholders who implement and monitor human rights interventions, this is what they had to say about ignorance of parents and children of the practice of Worst Forms of Child Labour;

Through all the interventions we have made in different communities, parents show ignorance of the effects of involving their wards in the cocoa farm. In one community a woman said she sees nothing wrong involving their children in farm work, since she gave birth to her children and no one talks care of them. Michael Sam (NGO Staff)

In my encounter with a man who uses his son on the cocoa farm all days he says he never got the chance to stay home when his father was going to farm. “After I follow my father and work with him several years, I have not died and am still working on my cocoa farm”. Ignorance of parents’ knowledge on the effects of involving children in Worst Forms of labour persists in the study area.

### **5.2.3 Cheap Labour**

Children serve as a source of cheap labour, is a motivating factor for parents and employers to involve children in labour. In the cocoa sector permanent employees are normally paid yearly, therefore the payment system is yearly affairs unlike other sectors that are paid daily, weekly or monthly. For instance, in the fishing industry it is done daily and weekly unless you are serving as a permanent labourer. More so in the cocoa sector payment is sometimes made on a daily bases or after executing a duty given.

From the study only five people were permanently employed by employers whilst eight children employed on as hired labourers and could work on anybody’s farm at any time. The other five children perform light work. The Anti-Slavery International in 2010 intimated that the inability of poor farmers to pay adult wages attract young men, and keep the increased demand for child workers because more and more farmers cannot afford to employ older, physically stronger and skilled labourer.

In the Jakai Traditional Area, a study found that children are paid GH¢360 (approximately GH¢1per day) at the end of the cocoa season.

Asiamah (2008) observed that expensive adult labour causes Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa. He maintained that adult workers came in mostly as caretakers who took one-third of the harvest.



This is peculiar to the study area, adult workers in the cocoa farm who only come to take over from the owners after planting the cocoa takes one third of the yield, which is seen as expensive to the owners of the farm, as such employ children who at the end of the season paid a small amount to them.

A 56 old woman, Ama Donkor (not real name) testify that she employs about a 16-year-old boy to take care of the cocoa farm, since she is incapacitated and cannot work any longer and also cannot employ an adult worker, because the adult worker will take almost half of my yield, therefore Abu takes some small amount annually.

The parents of these children are also victims who also use these children in the sense that they are not able to hire adult labourers on their farms, but use their own children on the farm.

From the conceptual framework in the literature review it was identified that some parents“ gives birth to large family size in order to use these children on the farm as a source of cheap labour.

Kojo Senanu Akyea an entrepreneur gave his version on the editorial in the June 16, 2016 Daily Graphic “the issue of child labour: are we missing the point” his version;

We need to encourage responsible parenting and let people know that child bearing is conditional on the ability to take proper care of them” (Daily Graphic editorial, Thursday, June, 16, 2016).

In Cote D’Ivoire, cocoa farmers in order to maximize profit and reduce cost employ children as child labourers as they give them minimum wage (Hawksley, 2001).

Arguably children are preferred by employers since their services are cheap and they do not negotiate high remuneration.

#### **5.2.4 Continuation of Family Business**

Most children working under Worst Forms of Child Labour or forced to work in order to learn the farming skills to continue family job as stated earlier in the literature where children are considered economic asset who can help parents to execute their responsibilities

According to Table 4.6 on the push factors for the WFCL six children representing 33% of the entire children sampled acknowledged that they are involved in labour just because their parents asked them to learn skills on the cocoa farm to continue the farming business when they are no more. Child involvement in the cocoa production is an age-old tradition which, besides the immediate labour value constitutes a traditional way of importing cocoa farming skills to help them and equipping them to take over from ageing parents and relatives (MMYE, 2007). Maame Monica a 65-year-old woman who stays with his grandson Kofi (15 years old) was interviewed and this was his story.

I am 65 years old and no longer continuing to do all the difficult work again, therefore I engage my grandson whose father is dead and his mother left him with me. I engage this boy because when I die he will take over the cocoa farm, so he has to learn how to do all the activities, so he can take proper care of the farm. The cocoa land was given to me by my father as a share of his property before he died; therefore I don't want a third party to take over the cocoa farm other than my grandson who has been taking care of me.

According to Mr. Adu Amponsah and Mr. Ackon from the NCCE and CHRAJ respectively, who are representatives of the West Amenfi West District Child Labour Protection Committee noted most children in the study area work so as to learn skills to continue the family job or business.

Agil (2012) found that where parents have worked in their childhood, they also involved their children into work to pass it from generation to generation. Children working is not a violation of their rights, but when the sort of work deprived them of their education and subject them to harmful, mental, cognitive and developmental disorder, is a violation of their rights

On the 69th session in 1983 of the International Conference, the ILO Director General acknowledged, children working for a few hours to earn additional pocket money, children doing household work, youngsters helping their parents or family on the farm are not child labour, rather children prematurely living adult lives working long hours for salaries and wages under the environment detrimental to their health and physical and mental development are engaged in child labour. From the study, it shows clearly that children's activities in the cocoa farm are considered as the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

In summary the study revealed that children are economic asset to parents, they work to sharpen the economic instability of their parents and guardians by working to supplement family income to cater for the home. It also knows that poverty level of parents puts children into such situation as well as ignorance of the parent on the effect of WFCL children. And a source of cheap labours and parent or families who because of traditional ideology put children into labour rest to transfer the skills of a good farmer to their children. As children are put into labour just to continue the work they do at the expense of their education. It is to this fact that proves that child labour and poverty are inevitable, bound together and if child labour and its worst form is continuously used to treat social disease of poverty, both poverty and child labour will prevail until the end of life.

### **5.3 Experiences of Children in WFCL**

The widespread use of children in cocoa production is of great concern, not only the work they do, but the experiences of these children are also paying attention to. The third research question of the study pursues the experiences children go through while executing their work. From the data collected, children experience a variety of dangers and harassment in line with their cocoa farming activities at a different level of work at a particular time. The activities in the cocoa farming start from land preparation to the harvesting stage of the cocoa beans.

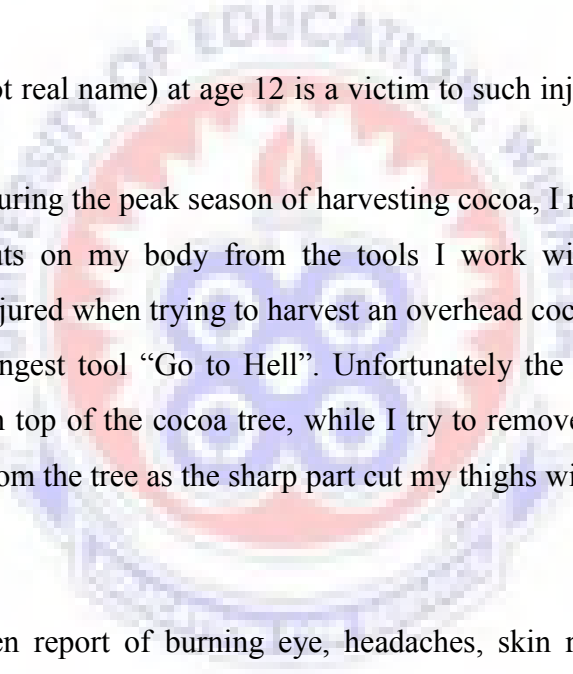
The children responding to the questions apparently agreed that verbal abuse by employers is an order of the day in working place. Passah (not real name) aged 14 revealed that he is verbally assaulted by his employers, whenever a work is assign to be done, and when there is break in work as a result of tiredness. The child again said, sometimes his employers insult his parents for not fully doing the work given to do, both in the farm and the house, sometimes in the presence of other people, including his age group, his colleagues tease and laugh at him when he has the opportunity to chat with them. This obviously puts the child in emotional trauma, in this case child labourers often find it difficult to have feelings of love and belongingness by others and family attachment. This usually put children to lack self-esteem and confidence among their peers.

ILO –IPEC (2003a) opines that children see it a problem interacting and cooperating with other colleagues in attaining a sense of identity, belonging and feel being rejected and hopeless, as in the UDHR of 1948.

Child labourers are susceptible to all the dangers and experiences faced by adult workers when placed in the same situation. These works that are hazardous and affects adult workers can affect child labourers more seriously.

Children during the observation and interview were entangled with several injuries that affect their physical development. Cuts from working tools like cutlass, matches, “Go to Hell” on the body, put them at the risk of contracting infectious disease. Adults contracting these injuries have the ability of controlling it to prevent infectious disease unlike the child who is less knowledgeable to control these injuries.

Kwasi Asana (not real name) at age 12 is a victim to such injuries and this is what he had to say.



During the peak season of harvesting cocoa, I received several cuts on my body from the tools I work with. I was once injured when trying to harvest an overhead cocoa pod with the longest tool “Go to Hell”. Unfortunately the sharp part lock on top of the cocoa tree, while I try to remove the tool, I fell from the tree as the sharp part cut my thighs with a deep cut.

More so, children report of burning eye, headaches, skin rashes, pain in the neck during the interview section as a result of pesticide application, including chemicals during spraying. This poses serious health issues with the children, such as vision and hearing problems as well as stunted growth. It was also observed that these children do not visit hospitals or do not seek proper medical care from the hospital just because there are no hospitals in that particular community some also do not find money to seek medical care at the nearest hospital. Apparently children under these conditions have their right to health and physical development abused and in contravention of

human rights laws, especially Article 32 of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Cocoa farming activities are strenuous and are also done with physical demands, therefore children or adults participating in this work should be protected with some clothing. Children in the study area do not put on protective clothing, about sixteen children in the study area experience physical contact with all activities they perform. Some children indicated that they wear short pants, short sleeves, long boot and clothing to cover the nose and eye during spraying of chemicals. Twum-Baah (2015) intimated that about 95% of children work in hazardous conditions that put on protective equipment's, and are most at times wearing short pants, and short sleeve. This exposes children to physical violence or abuse. Sometimes children are bitten by snakes due to unprotected clothing.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 during my scheduled interview with the father or guardian of one respondent (Asancodwa), I observed that this boy was limping on his left leg: After interrogation I noticed that the child had been bitten by a snake when harvesting cocoa, but realized that he has not been taken to a clinic. Benevolently I had to take the boy to hospital. This made the boy told me secretly that anytime he gets hurt visiting the clinic was not an option for the guardian. This revelation of the denial of health care or treatment of injured children is as a result of financial constraint.

The Minimum Age Convention 138 permits children between 12 and 14 years do light work for less than 14 hours per week; however, the respondent noted that they experience long working hours beyond 6-7 hours per day, which makes them go

hungry due to inadequate food. One may ask why these children are working on the farm, where all kinds of food are grown, and the children in the farm goes hungry?

Consequentially, this is a violation of children's right to access adequate food. This is a matter of deprivation to children's physical growth. Children experience being cheated in the work they do by the remuneration employers pay to them. After these children's rights are violated and put into hazardous child labour, they are sometimes denied of their little wages or salary due them. The NCCE officer selected for the study says:

Some children who are employed as labourers, after working for some duration or period employees are denied of their pay or salaries. These children are attacked as thieves. These children are sacked without being paid any wages. During one of our intervention programmes a 16-year-old boy employed to work for six months, and after working for five months, this boy was attacked as stealing the employer's wife's money for purchasing some items from the market. Therefore the employee sacked the child from the house without paying anything to them.

Some children, especially the females experience sexual abuse. In one of the communities, Mmrakrom, a 14-year-old girl who work on the farm and also serve as a cook for the employer and his three children because the employer's wife had passed on, gave his ordeal that, after working on the farm and cooking in the evening, the employer tries to make advances on her, but she has refused several times. She said sometimes she decides to stay away from the work.

The District Labour Officer revealed that some female children are all the time abused through sexual harassment. This is what he says happened to one community during their intervention with a fifteen-year-old girl.

I could remember in one community we worked, an employer was using a girl working on this farm for sexual satisfaction in the community after the days' work on the farm. I notice it happen to most girls, but have nobody to complain, so they just keep to themselves.

Sexual exploitation is a violation of the child's right. Article 27 of the Children's Charter talks exclusively on offering a child for sexual activity as an abuse of the rights of the child, and is punishable by law. Therefore, such an act or abuse on the female child should be eliminated without delay.

Among the 18 children sampled for the study, six of them from Wansema Camp had received education and intervention on human rights, and were found attending school but help parents on the farm on weekends. The remaining 12 children have dropped out of school due to economic hardship. Ten of them expressed the likeness of attending school, Isaac 14-year-old boy has to say this on the response of likeness to attend school.

I wish, am in school, my parents promise to take me back to school after staying away for 3 years. 2 years now am at home doing farming work. Most of my friends attend school so I want to join them. Therefore I will be happy if my parents or anyone help me go to school.

This argument presupposes that children do not have access to education which is a violation of their rights to education.

When children were asked about their opinion on the work they do, they confirmed that the activities involved in the cocoa farm are very tedious and think that children should not do such work. One hundred of the respondents wish to stop engaging in



hazardous activities on the farm, because it prevents them from attending school and also suffer several injuries and cuts which make them sick.

About 80% of the children indicated not to totally stop performing the cocoa farming activities, but rather want to engage in light work in cocoa farming. An interview with the district CHRAJ boss on whether children engaging in cocoa farming activities express hope to stop working, this is what he said

Through our implementation and monitoring programmes on the WFCL, children gave concerns that the activities they do are difficult and put them to several harmful conditions. Therefore they wish to do light work and not the WFCL. Activities like filling the plastic bag with black soil for nursing cocoa beans, Picking and gathering cocoa pods, running basic farm errands and helping with cooking and serving food will be convenient for them.

More so, 20% wish to stop all activities involved in the cocoa farm so as they can attend school regularly or even if their parents do not have money for paying fees should engage them in learning trades and artisanal work.

In conclusion, children in the study area experience several atrocities in executing their duty on the farm. The abuse of verbal assault, injuries on the body, such as cuts and wounds from sharp tools like cutlass, machetes and “Go to Hell”, snake bites, exposure to chemicals and the use of unprotected clothing during work, indicate violations on the children’s right to physical development, emotional development. More so, the children hope to join their colleagues in schools or even learn trade or artisanal work. Although the cocoa farm activities are seen strenuous and undesirable for children to participate, they wish to perform light work.

#### **5.4 The Extent of Human Rights Intervention and legislation, Succeeded in the Elimination of WFCL**

Children have suffered and continue to suffer violations of their rights at the expense of education, physical, cognitive and emotional development. From the conceptual framework in the literature review, the parents have preconceived mind of having large family size to fulfil cultural and traditional beliefs in the Ghanaian society, where these children were used as labourers. The fourth research question of the study sought to find out the extent to which human rights intervention and legislation succeeded in eliminating WFCL in communities who have benefited some child right intervention programme.

Aries (1987) historically argues that, children were regarded as socially insignificant and were consequently maltreated, exploited and received no care and protection by parents and the states. Parents did not see anything wrong with the kind of work their children do, whether it had health implication or not. Children from age six upwards were seen as little adults undertaking adult tasks and served as trainees since childhood did not exist and viewed as economic assets (Aries, 1987). But parents these days had unlimited powers and control over children.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Children's Act of Ghana categorized child rights and needs into three forms; The Survival of the child consider the basic needs of a child such as health, nutrition, shelter and clothing. Development of the child as it examines the growth, cognitive development. Social life of the child promotes the development of the full potentials of the child.

Protecting the child from all forms of discrimination, abuse, exploitation, harmful traditional practices and anything that infringes on the human rights of the child is

absolute. Finally Children participation in decision-making should be recognise and given the needed attention. The literature has demonstrated that, there are adequate human rights laws and legislations put in place to eliminate Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa producing communities at the national, regional and international levels.

The fourth research question seeks to examine the extent to which these legislations and activism directed to the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa in the Amenfi West has succeeded. The following are some of the views expressed by child rights professionals on child labour from different point of views on the topic „Issues of child labour: Are we missing the point?

The laws must be strictly enforced to deal with parents who engage their kids in child labour, while we put in measures to address the fundamental causes of the phenomenon.” (Ibrahim Alhassan, Agriculturalist). Daily Graphic, Editorial Thursday, June 16, 2016.

The Ministry in charge of social protection should step in and liaise with the Ministry of Education to absorb children of school age to be in school”. (Wisdom Bonuedi, Teacher). Source: Daily Graphic, Editorial Thursday, June 16, 2016.

There should be an enforceable law to ensure that every child of school age is in school, while the school feeding programme should be extended to areas where there is a high rate of child labour” (Mavis Dwamena, Banker). Source: Daily Graphic, Editorial Thursday, June 16, 2016.

From the study area, three communities selected include two communities without human rights intervention and activism as well as one community selected from several communities that had received some child right interventions and activism on

child labour. In the data collection process, the focus groups in various communities comprising parents, employers and children were put to test on the knowledge of who a child is, knowledge of child labour, the work considered to be performed by children and the effects of child labour on children. The focus group from Wansema camp that has been educated on the rights of the child had better knowledge of child labour and its worst form. Mr. Acheampong a leader of the Community Child Protection Committee explains his knowledge of a child and child labour.

A child is any person below the age of 18 years. Child labour is a child who is allowed to do certain works that is above its capabilities and prevent that child from attending school. Child labour prevents children from attending school; prevent children from physical maturity through cuts and wounds and other abuses children's experiences.

Both parents and children in that area exhibit knowledge of child labour and its implication on them. On the other side of the two communities, namely Koduakrom and Mmrakrom some parents and children had little knowledge of the child labour issues. But indications show that because there is no education and intervention and monitoring team as well as Community Child Protection Committee, parents engage these children in the Worst Forms of cocoa activities.

Parents and children in the Wansema Camp confirm they have been engaged by personnel from NGO's, Social Welfare, CHRAJ and other officers to educate them on child labour issues and constituted committees among ourselves to monitor recalcitrant parents and employers.

The stakeholders executing human rights intervention in the district outlined that children are subjected to a lot of abuse in the cocoa farm which is detrimental to the

children. Lack of education is the order of the day in areas where children are used as labourers on the cocoa farm. The study indicates children drop out of school because of involvement in the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Among the 18 children for the study 13 representing 72% had dropped out of school, 22% out of 72% stopped schooling between basic 3 and 4 while 50% stopped schooling between basic 5 and 6. Child labour and its worst form is a cyclical issue that deprived children from schooling, and a child working full-time in cocoa production or other works that prevents a child from getting an education which affect the child from learning basics of reading, writing and arithmetic and does not develop the cognitive thinking.

Education enlightens people and opens the capacity to be informed and makes significant choices. Education makes a judgmental decision on children's development and wellbeing, as it supports the development of emotional, cognitive and social life (UNICEF, 2004). Moreover, children working have their education interrupted. While all child labour has the potential to harm education, hazardous activities and the Worst Forms of Child Labour pose the most threats (Brown, 2012).

Therefore, access to quality education is a fundamental right for children and adequately supported and administered, will effectively contribute to the eradication of hazardous and exploitative child labour (Betcherman, 2004). Betcherman further opine that quality education provides children with important, social, cognitive and personal skills that help them break the low income poverty cycle that perpetuates child labour and its worst form. Therefore, subjecting children to work that deprived them of education infringes rights and are in contravention of 1992 Ghanaian Constitution and Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Child physical development is determined by the health implication of the individual. Therefore, the excessive exposure to physical work such as the use of farming tools like the machete, cutlass and others as well as pesticide application poses serious threat to the physical development which results in respiratory diseases, poor coordination, stunted growth and others subjecting children in violation of their rights to development.

Communities like Koduakrom and Mmrakrom reiterated that no education has been done in the communities by any officers concerning the use of children in the cocoa farming, but have heard that on the radio in the local area, sending signals to punish people who indulge in such activities. On the other hand, Wansema Camp confirms their engagement with officers from the district capital educating them on the effect of using children to practices hazardous cocoa farming activities. The parents and employers of cocoa farming outlined the following as effect of child labour learned from these officers.

- Children lose concentration in the classroom
- Weakens the children's immune system
- Children will not have time to study
- Children are prone to diseases and all sorts of injuries that prevent their growth.

The stakeholders responsible for implementing child labour and its worst forms issues reiterated a lot of education in most of the communities in the district on the effects of WFCL in relation to the fundamental human rights of children.

In the form of education, all the stakeholders join hands to do community sensitization programme on the selected communities on the effects of the WFCL in

cocoa activities and the fundamental right that the child should have. This is a fundamental requirement of a parent responsibility towards the child, these draws inspiration from the United Nations Convention on the Child, which mandate states parties to provide the free basic compulsory education for all human.

Mr. Sam an officer from Codesult Network an NGO staff in the study emphasizes that in their interactions with the communities, they create awareness on the effects of the hazardous nature of the work involved in the cocoa farming. More so, through radio and community information centres were used to disseminate information, as well as different focus groups was formed to share thought and highlighted with information. Children, parents and employers were made aware of children's rights such as the right to education, right to health care, right to physical development as well as right to survival, participation and protection from all exploitation. This is in consonance with the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child granting children rights and protection.

In the implementation of WFCL laws in cocoa within the district, a lot of intervention was executed. In order for children to be free and protected from practicing Worst Forms of labour in the cocoa farming, the stakeholders through the implementation programme, in the quest to eliminate these activities engaged in the development of Community Action Plans to serve as a guide to follow.

Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 182 entreat member states to take measures to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the provision giving effect to this Convention. In the fulfilment of this, the stakeholders through their intervention programmes in the district have set up a Community Child Protection Committee to oversee the rights of the children.

Appiah and Fluffy (2006) found that children's rights are fundamental implying that rights are inherent just because one is human, therefore protecting one's rights cannot be taken away. In the implementation strategy the labour officer with other partners promulgate bye-laws protecting the rights of children in fulfilment of Children's Act 1998 (Act 560).

In the Children's Act of Ghana, any person who contravenes the provision of byelaws directed to protect and promote children's rights are liable on sanctions, conviction to a fine or jail term. The stakeholders complain some challenges during their implementation period, this is the commitment level of parents and employers in some communities was not encouraging, moreover some Community Child Protection members were weak and not enforcing existing the bye-laws to fulfil their duties. There was apathy on some part of the parents to reveal information and also enforce the laws, as some employers were not given accurate information.

Generally, through monitoring exercise as part of the intervention programme, it was found parent had stop engaging their children in exercising the worst form of labour in cocoa activities in the areas of human rights intervention. Children now do light work such as cooking in the farms while their parents work on the farm, do small weeding under the supervision of parents.

The indication that children and parents know their rights, and the work children do is significant acceptance of improvement in the elimination of WFCL in the communities. More so the Community's Child Protection Committee knowledge and awareness of the ILO Conventions on the Minimum Age and the Worst Forms of Child Labour is another indication. In an interaction with separate focus groups, children's focus group and parents' focus group had to say this;



Previously my father takes me to the farm three days within the week during the peak season of harvesting cocoa. I worked with sharp machetes and others. After some officials visited our community to educate us on child labour my father now takes me to farm on Saturdays and on vacation where I do the cooking and heaping of cocoa pods, while my parents and other men help him harvesting the cocoa.

Theresa (not real name) 15 years old, among the focus group.

I drop out of school at basic 2 and was always going to farm with my father's friend to do different activities on the cocoa farm. I was once seriously wounded and was in the house for two months, after which some officials came to our community to talk about child labour. My friend told these officials that I have stop school and always going to cocoa farm and injured, so the officials came to visit me, where I was taken to hospital and now I have stop going to farm. But I decided to continue schooling so the official took me to school and am in basic 6. Asamoah (not real name)

I am Efi (not real name) 13 years old, in basic 5; my parents engaged me in farm activities, all the time because I am declared as not brilliant so farming will be good for me. But after some officials visited our community to talk about effect of child labour my parent's has now taken me back to school. But sometimes my father asks permission from my school teachers and takes me to farm to cook and heap cocoa pod on Fridays.

The various texts by the three children are an indication that children now know their rights to attend school. Therefore, a sign of eliminating Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa in the communities is recognised.

But there is an indication that teachers in some communities feel apathy with the parents and sometimes released children to parents on school days especially Fridays. Parents and Community Child Protection Committee on the focus groups gave a similar indication.

Mr. Acheampong the chairman of the community child protection committee reiterated that parent's do not engage their children in cocoa farm work that prevents them from schooling. More so work that is above the child capability is no longer practice. This is because they work with the community action plan and the byelaws protecting the child rights.

A transcribe of the three children and the leader of the community child protection committee is in no doubt that the implementation programme has changed the situation as a result of intervention. An indication that children previously were used on the farms to practice all sorts of coca production activities, for instance Asamoah 15-year-old boy who had the intention to attend school was practicing all kinds of hazardous activities, until his dreams came through, due to the intervention of the human rights advocates.

The theme "YEN DAAKYE" meaning our future, was one of the modules used by the stakeholders as a form of eliminating the activities children perform, advocating that the child's future must not be put in jeopardy, but rather given the opportunity to have a better future.

During the data collection in this particular community, I observed that parents cooperated positively and adhere to intervention policies and the bye-laws, as a matter stopped engaging their children in the activities harmful to child development. The

stakeholders implementing and monitoring assessment outlined the following as the success of their advocacy intervention work:

- School enrolment in those communities has increased.
- Children have the confidence to report parents who hide to use children on the farm during school hours.
- Parent's report of their children has become stubborn and is refusing light work given them on the cocoa farm.
- Volunteers in those community's alert officers of any Worst Forms of Child Labour incidence even in different communities that has not received the intervention.
- The withdrawal of some children from the WFCL, especially about four children withdrawn from the Wansema camp to Suhum, Mankessim, Takoradi and Asankrangwa to join parents put them in schools.

In further interrogation these stakeholders appreciated that they are yet to raise funds to do advocacy work and intervention and education on the WFCL in other communities of that has not received any education in the district.

In conclusion, it is undeniable fact that the work of the NGO's, Social Welfare, CHRAJ, NCCE and the labour officers had impacted a dramatic change in the use of children in the WFCL in cocoa in several communities they have worked. Parents, employers and children have got enough insight into what constitute child labour and its worst form. It is to this that one can attribute that the ILO Conventions and other human rights both regional and national has been upheld and given the needed implementation.

## CHAPTER SIX

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 6.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of findings, limitations and conclusions drawn from the findings and outlines recommendations for improvement and further studies

#### 6.1 Summary of Findings

The Worst Forms of Child Labour practices were studied in the three communities in the Amenfi West district, namely Wansema Camp, Koduakrom and Mmrakrom, of which Wansema Camp has received child labour intervention, Koduakrom and Mmrakrom has not received any education and intervention in the Worst Forms of Child Labour issues.

Thirty respondents were purposively sampled for the study of which 60% are children, 10% are parents, 13% are employers and 17% representing stakeholders from CHRAJ, Social Welfare, Labour Department, NCCE and the NGO's who are to implement and monitor child rights intervention programs. From the age distribution of the children, 11% were between 7 and 8 years, 39% were between 9 and 12 years as well as 50% were between 13 and 16 years. Eighty three percent of the children sampled were males, whereas 17% were females.

In terms of the level of education of the children, 22% dropped out of school at basic 3 and 4, 50% dropped out at basic 5 and 6 whereas 28% of the children were still in school whiles doing light work on the cocoa farm during weekends and holidays. On the marital status of the children's parents, 33% indicated that their parents were still married while 39% said their parents were divorced and 28% of them had their

mother or father died, leaving them orphans. In the aspect of children, parent's education level, 44% of them had completed basic education while 56% had never attended school. With respect to children's parent occupation, it indicated that 100% of them are cocoa and other subsistence farmers.

From the study, 28% of children who responded to questions happened to be indigenes participating in Worst Forms of Child Labour while 72% were migrant from the northern part and Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana.

### **6.1.1 The Nature of Work Children do**

The children selected for the study indicated that they are involved in all kinds of activities in cocoa farming which are difficult and harmful to their health.

In the study area, 28% of the children work less than 13 hours per week indicating the children work once a day in the week, which is an indication that they are in school all week days. Another 28% work 36 to 42 hours per week indicating they work six days in the week, and 44% also work for 48 to 54 hours per week.

Out of the 18 children sampled, 8 children indicated to have engaged in the initial preparation of the land for growing or planting cocoa, 12 children from the entire sample were involved in the use of cutlass and machete for weeding and pruning of cocoa trees, also 8 children out of the eighteen were involved in the application of agro-chemicals and fertilizers. Furthermore, 13 of them were involved in breaking of pods, carrying of heavy fermented beans for drying and weighing, while 5 children were noted for doing some light work such as scooping of cocoa beans and gathering of pods.

Only 7 children out of the 18 indicated, to have received some wages and salary after the period of work, 6 of them said they were paid for some work they do outside the home notably “By Day”, while the rest work solely for their parents therefore do not take any wages or salaries.

### **6.1.2 Factors Influencing the WFCL in Cocoa in Amenfi West District**

The study found different factors that push children into the WFCL in cocoa farms, of which all the 18 children were working as a result of poverty in the homes, 8 children working as a result of their parent’s ignorance on the effects of WFCL in cocoa on the part of their children. As well, 13 were engaging in WFCL as a result of cheap labour, where parents and employers either pay nothing or a very small amount, whereas some serve as debt bondage. More so, 6 of them were working in order to continue their family business.

### **6.1.3 Experiences of Children Engaged in WFCL**

Children under the condition of WFCL experience several physical injuries such as snake bite, wounds from the tools used on the farm, suffering from severe pains all over the body, headaches, burning eye and skin, dermal rashes, nausea and dizziness due to the exposure to pesticide application which poses serious health threat to the children. Long working hours on the farm puts children going very hungry because of inadequate food.

Attending school was not an option for these children, but serves as slaves to their paymasters, therefore children lack the acquisition of academic knowledge such as cognitive development, basic numeracy and literacy. Eighty three percent of the children expressed the hope of going back to school if the opportunity was given, whereas 20% reiterated that they will like to learn trades or artisanal work because of

their age. More so, the sampled children indicated their concern to stopped performing the hazardous cocoa farming practice and rather involve in light work in the cocoa farm to help parents and other guidance.

#### **6.1.4 Extent of Success of Human Rights Intervention in Amenfi West District**

Despite the numerous human rights interventions on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, children's rights are still abused in Ghana. In the Amenfi West District, child labour interventions have been implemented in most of the communities, unfortunately Koduakrom and Mmrakrom have not been beneficiaries of these interventions. The stakeholders implementing these interventions use sensitization, awareness creation and advocacy to educate parents, employers and children on the effect of WFCL in cocoa. These officials through their implementation programme to develop a Community Action Plan on the elimination of WFCL also set up Community Child Protection Committee to enforce the local bye laws in their communities. Some parents and employers felt reluctant to give accurate information about children involved the WFCL in cocoa.

Employers and parents no more engage children in the WFCL in cocoa in the communities that had received child rights interventions including Wansema camp. Consequently, children now perform lights work this communities where there have been some interventions. The indication of success of human rights interventions in the communities shows that children have the confidence to report parents who secretly involve children in WFCL. Some children are withdrawn from labour and put in schools and to other district to join their parents. Most parents report their children have been resisting to do work that is harmful. The increase in enrolment in schools in this areas indicate that the implementation of the child rights education have been

successful. But children in the communities that are yet to receive child rights interventions are still involved in WFCL in cocoa.

## **6.2 Limitations**

The Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa is a global phenomenon in areas where cocoa is cultivated which comes with various activities considered as hazardous and has a lot of implications for the child. The southern part of Ghana is noted for growing cocoa in small and large scales. This is where children are prone to the Worst Forms of Child Labour practices. Though the study should have been conducted in all the cocoa growing regions of Ghana or even the whole Amenfi West District, rather than focusing on only three communities within the district, the period for the completion of the work was short. It is imperative to know that Worst Forms of Child Labour is prevalent in cocoa growing communities, but the study was limited to only three cocoa farming communities in the AWD for some significant reasons.

Firstly, inadequate financial resources available for the study contributed to a smaller area of study.

Secondly, the limited time allocated to the study restricted the researcher to study a wider area, hence the apathy on the part of some stakeholders sharing ideas, experience and views.

## **6.3 Conclusion**

From the evolution of children's rights, several abuses meted out to children have come under scrutiny; the WFCL in cocoa growing areas is no exception and has become a great concern for the International Community.



A number of measures have been laid down to address the phenomenon among the developing countries including Ghana. ILO Convention on the minimum age, the CRC and the WFCL are the major legislation geared to eliminate child labour and its worst forms. The Minimum Age Convention 138 puts children between 12 and 14 years to make light work approximately below 14 hours per week. Children in Ghana who do not meet the minimum age for light work, thus under age 12 are found engaging in the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa and other sector of work.

Activities in the cocoa farms are dangerous and harmful to the child; therefore the many of the activities are meant for adult and are illogical for parents and other pay masters to involved children in such work, only for the assumption that poverty and other factors have crippled children into such menace. The nature of activities needs physical and cognitive mind set to execute such work, therefore the fact that poverty, ignorance and cheap labour has pushed children into labour is not a justification of good practices. The health threats posed to the children contribute to physical and mental deficiency in growth and development. Notably parents and employers lack of formal education precondition children right to education.

Parents therefore should be mindful of giving birth to many children and should know that child bearing is dependent on the ability to take care of them, therefore depriving children of their rights is a violation. Children experiencing such situation pose several rights violations. Children's plight should not be an excuse to deprive them of their rights of childhood.

For the past decade number of human rights interventions aimed at addressing WFCL in cocoa communities have been instituted. The success of these interventions is a great concern. The success of these interventions was achieved through the awareness

creation, sensitization and the ability to monitor the situation. As intervention has yielded good results and children realizing their rights as well as parents knowing their responsibilities has increased school enrolment.

Children participating in work that is paid and unpaid which conforms with their age and do not hinder children's education and development should be encouraged, this is to learn skills on the work, experience and fit into society, support of orphans and withdrawal of children should be a priority.

#### **6.4 Recommendations**

Several issues pertaining to the Worst Forms of Child Labour were realized in the findings as to the nature of work, the push factors, experience of the children involved as well as the success of interventions addressing the menace. In view of that the following recommendations is suggested.

Ghana government should prioritised the approaches of eliminating the root of the push factors of child labour and its worst forms including poverty, by making policies that will be beneficial to rural cocoa farmers on their proceeds. Also expanding the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) to all rural communities as a supplement to the cocoa proceeds, and also increasing the monetary value to beneficially. This is will improve on the family or household level of income.

Government ministries responsible for dealing with the child's rights issues such as Ministry of Education, Ministry of Gender and Social Protection and the Employment Ministry should build comprehensive and reliable data on children who are living in child labour prone communities as well as children who have received human rights

intervention. This is to keep track on children's activities perform in their various homes, whether they are in school or otherwise.

Agencies implementing the WFCL laws should put up a sensitization approach to cocoa farmers to use the "nnoboa system" to reduce the household labour, this is applicable in the sense that farmers in communities who have received interventions affirm their commitment working together with other cocoa farmers where there will be no hire labour or use their children.

There should be a constant discourse and sensitization programmes, encouraging stakeholders to set up structures in communities such as the Community Child Protection Committee to operationalize the established bye-laws and Community Action Plan. Therefore the bye-laws should be reviewed as when an intervention improved attitudinal change and trend of child labour.

Government social interventions such as the school feeding programme and the free distribution of school uniform should be a priority, to be extended to rural communities for children to have access to one square meal a day to prevent hunger, as also children to be clothed, this is to reduce children search for hazardous work in order to purchase clothing themselves to access school as a face reduce parent's expenditure.

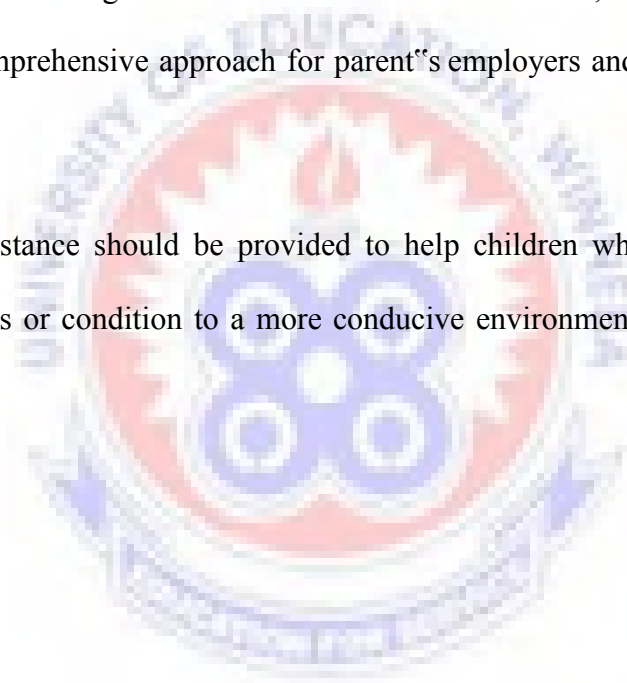
The central government together with the District Municipal and Metropolitan Assemblies should commit enough resources to the sensitization and educational programme for eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

The agencies implementing the Conventions, laws and legislation directed at eliminating WFCL, like the Social Welfare, Labour Department, CHRAJ, NCCE and

the NGO's should be resourced to extend their jurisdiction, therefore to ensure effective monitoring processes of beneficiaries. This is to examine the effectiveness and the success of the intervention programmes.

The various DA's should commit parts of their Common Funds for media publications and advertisement in the local communities to disseminate information on the WFCL on the radio in the various local Ghanaian languages as a tool for sensitizing peoples who have the power of engaging children into hazardous labour. Radio is a descending tool for information dissemination; therefore this will gear towards a comprehensive approach for parent's employers and children's knowledge on WFCL.

Financial assistance should be provided to help children who are withdrawn from their situations or condition to a more conducive environment as well as those who are orphans.



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## APPENDIX A

### INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHILDREN

Demographic information.

1. Age
2. Sex/ Gender
3. Level of education
4. Marital status of parents
5. Occupation of parents

RESEARCH QUESTION 1: What is the nature of Worst Forms of Child Labour Practice in Cocoa in the Amenfi West?

1. What work do you do on the farm?
2. Describe the activities you do on a day?
3. How many hours do you work in a day?
4. At what time do you start working?
5. When do you finish your work?
6. What are the tools you use on the farm?
7. Do you wear any protective cloth during working hours, if yes what kind of protective wear do you put on?

RESEARCH QUESTION 2: What are the factors that push children into the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa farms in the AWD?

1. Why are you working?
2. Who are you working for?
3. Why do you prefer working in the farm, instead of attending school?

RESEARCH QUESTION 3: What are the experiences that Children go through working under Worst Form of Labour in cocoa farming in the AWD?

1. How do you feel about the work you do?
2. How do you find the work?
3. What is the relationship between you and your co-workers?
4. How do you relate to your employer or parents?
5. Are you punish if you don't perform your duty, if yes what kind of punishment?
6. What are the dangers you encounter during work?
7. Have you been injured while working,
8. If yes how severe was it?



9. Would you like to attend school?
10. What is your opinion on the job?

RESEARCH QUESTION 4: To What extent have Human Rights intervention or legislation directed at Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa Succeeded in the AWD?

1. Have you been visited by officials who talk to you about the work you do?
2. If yes what did they say?
3. Has their visit influenced the work you do?
4. Do your employees/ parents engage you in the work you did previously? If no what is the kind of work you do now.



## APPENDIX B

### INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIAN/ EMPLOYERS/FOCUS GROUP

#### Demographic information

1. Age
2. Gender
3. Education
4. Marital status
5. How many children work on your farms

#### RESEARCH QUESTION 1: What is the nature of Worst Forms of Child Labour Practice in Cocoa in the Amenfi West?

1. What are the ages of children who work on your cocoa farm?
2. How long have they worked with you?
3. Describe what children do on the farm
4. Which days do you work and how many hours do you spend working in a day?
5. At what time does the work start and end each day's work?
6. How are your farming activities done (a) self (b) Nnoboa (c) labourers(help of my children)
7. Are your children or employees paid? If no why? And if yes what are the mode of payment?

#### RESEARCH QUESTION 2: What are the factors that push children into the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa farms in the AWD?

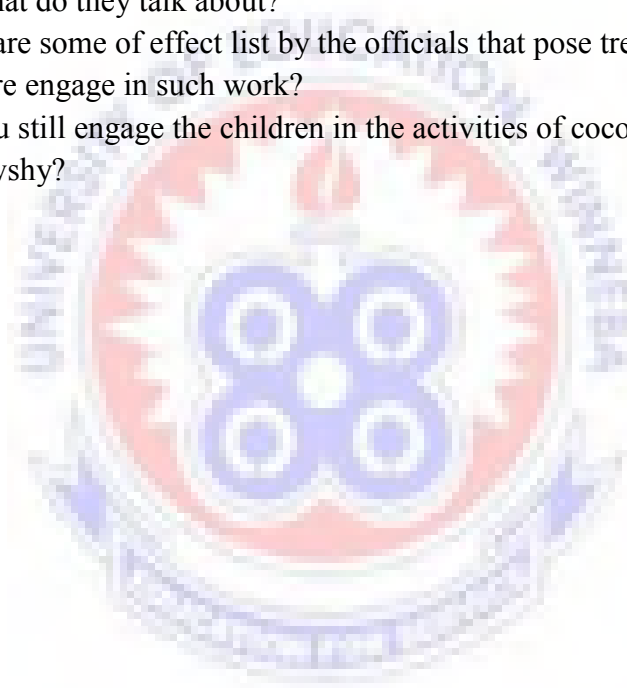
1. What work do you do?
2. How many children do you engage in your cocoa farm work?
3. Are they working and schooling at the same time?
4. What are the reasons for engaging children in the farm work?
5. Why do you engage children in the farm instead of sending them to school?
6. Why do you think children should work? If yes why?
7. What types of activities do you engage children on the farm

RESEARCH QUESTION 3: What are the experiences that Children go through working under Worst Form of Labour in cocoa farming in the AWD?

1. What are the kinds of work you give to the children on the cocoa farm?
2. Do the children report of injuries on the farm? If yes what are some form of injuries they encounter?
3. What are some hazards children are confronted with?

RESEARCH QUESTION 4: To What extent have Human Rights intervention or legislation directed at Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa Succeeded in the AWD?

1. Have you had encounter with some officials who talk about child labour? If yes what do they talk about?
2. What are some of effect list by the officials that pose treat to the children, if they are engage in such work?
3. Do you still engage the children in the activities of cocoa farming? If yes why? If no wshy?



## APPENDIX C

### INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHRAJ, SOCIAL WELFARE, NCCE AND NGOS

#### Demographic Information

1. Sex/Gender
2. Occupation

RESEARCH QUESTION 1: What is the nature of Worst Forms of Child Labour Practice in Cocoa in the Amenfi West?

1. What are some of the activities children are engaged in the cocoa farm during your encounter with them?
2. How long do the children work on the farm?
3. What is the level of child labour and its worst forms in cocoa farming in the district?

RESEARCH QUESTION 2: What are the factors that push children into the Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa farms in the AWD?

1. What are some reasons that inform employees and parents to engage their children in the worst forms of labour in cocoa farming?
2. What is the plight of child labourers?

RESEARCH QUESTION 3: What are the experiences that Children go through working under Worst Forms of Labour in cocoa farming in the AWD?

1. What are some abuses that children are subjected to during farming?
2. Do children express hopes to put a stop, performing the cocoa farming activities? If yes what are some of their hopes?

RESEARCH QUESTION 4: To What extent have Human Rights intervention or legislation directed at Worst Forms of Child Labour in cocoa Succeeded in the AWD?

1. What are some of the child rights abuses meted on the children in the cocoa farm?
2. Has your outfit done any education on the effects of Worst Forms of Child Labour? If yes what form of education did you do?
3. How have you help in the implementation of the WFCL laws in cocoa in the district?

4. What were the challenges faced during the implementation of the WFCL laws?
5. How did the participant cooperate during the education implementation of WFCL laws?
6. Have the employees of child labour and their parents stopped engaging children in WFCL? If yes what sort of work do the children do now?
7. How successful has the human rights activism and legislation succeeded in the district?

