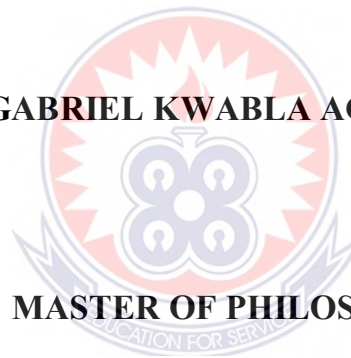


UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

**PREVALENCE OF CHILD DOMESTIC LABOUR IN TORKOR IN
THE KPANDO MUNICIPALITY OF THE VOLTA REGION**

GABRIEL KWABLA AGBODZI



MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

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KPANDO MUNICIPALITY OF THE VOLTA REGION**

GABRIEL KWABLA AGBODZI
(202141172)



**A thesis in the Department of Social Studies Education,
Faculty of Social Science Education, submitted to the School of
Graduate Studies in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the award of the degree of
Master of Philosophy
(Social Studies Education)
in the University of Education, Winneba**

APRIL, 2023

DECLARATION

Student's Declaration

I, Gabriel Kwabla Agbodzi, declare that this Thesis, 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:.....

Date:

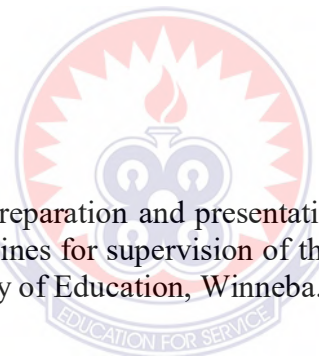
Supervisor's Declaration

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

Name of Supervisor: Dr. Gershon Yawo Dake

Signature:.....

Date:



DEDICATION

I dedicate this piece of work to my mother, Minao Klomanyi of blessed memory.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Research like this requires the services and guidance of more experienced, resourceful and knowledgeable people. In this view, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my academic advisor, University of Education, Winneba, Dr Gershon Yawo Dake for his regular suggestions to my work in terms of organisation, language and content of the work (thesis). He supported me from the beginning when I was conceptualizing the topic and the approaches and needed to implement them in terms of collecting and analyzing the data up to the end of the project. I am highly privileged to enjoy his professional guidance and it is my prayer that the Good Lord will continue to bless him with good health and life.

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Furthermore, in writing this thesis, many publications were consulted and so, I am highly indebted to all the authors whose works were cited either directly or indirectly. Also, my sincerest gratitude goes to my dear wife (Ms. Emefa Avornyo) and my children (Etornam Agbodzi, Peniel Agbodzi, Atsu Agbodzi, Atsupui Agbodzi) for the hardship they had to go through in my absence.

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ABSTRACT

This study surveyed the prevalence of child domestic labour in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality of the Volta Region of Ghana. The study's goal is to determine how common child domestic labour is in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality in the Volta Region. Furthermore, to comprehend the experiences, factors, and outcomes of domestic work on children engaged in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality in the Volta Region. A qualitative method design was used for the study. The major instrument for data collection was interview. Purposive and snowball sampling techniques were used to select the sample of respondents for the study. In all, nineteen (19) respondents were selected, seventeen (17) were from the community of study and Two (2) institutional heads from the Kpando Municipality. It was discovered through an in-depth interview that child domestic labour is prevalent in the Torkor community of the Kpando Municipality of the Volta Region. In addition, children engaged in domestic work are not given good care. The study also discovered that parents of children in domestic labour are given monies without the knowledge of the children. Additionally, the study revealed that children involved in domestic work are not allowed to fully concentrate on their academic work. It is recommended that among other things, government must put in place mass education to stop the menace.



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Overview

This study sought to discover the prevalence of child domestic labour in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality of the Volta Region of Ghana. This chapter takes a look at the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, relevance of the study, delimitations of the study, limitations of the study, definition of terms and abbreviations as well as organisation of the study.

1.1 Background to the Study

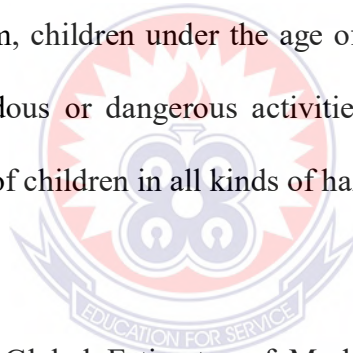
Child labour has long been regarded as a serious infringement of children's rights, work-related fundamental rights, and other human rights, as well as a major impediment to national development. Child labour, by definition, has a detrimental impact on human resource development, increasing the possibility of a country's most cherished assets becoming its greatest liabilities. Even though it is commonly disregarded, child labour is an important component of the social and economic reality that surrounds us. Child labour is a source of concern for many people, organizations, and economies all around the world. The type of employment that the child does or is involved in is the key issue or concern. Because of their age and vigour, some of the children are exposed to hazardous employment that can cause physical and physiological harm and even death. The international community has created fundamental rules for how it should be defined and addressed in recent decades. Three major international conventions – the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Convention No. 138, the International Labour Organization's

(ILO) Convention No. 182, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) – set the legal boundaries for child labour and provide the legal basis for national and international actions to combat it (ILO, 2015). The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines child labour as employment that deprives children (ages 5–17) of their youth, their potential, and their dignity, as well as being hazardous to their physical and mental development. It refers to labour that is potentially hazardous to their mental, physical, social, or moral well-being and interferes in some manner with their education (ILO, 2002).

According to International Cocoa Initiative, (2022) Child labour specifically refers to work, whether or not it is hazardous, that is harmful to children's mental, physical, social, or moral development and interferes with their education by preventing them from attending class, forcing them to leave early, or forcing them to try to balance school and excessively heavy or lengthy work. It describes labour or employment done by minors that does not comply with the terms of international conventions or national laws, such as the Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560) (NAP2, 2017-2021). The phrase "child labour" refers to the employment of minors in tasks that are detrimental to their physical and mental development and disrupt their schooling. This is a pervasive and intricate problem with extensive social, economic, and moral ramifications. There are many different types of child labour, such as: Child labour refers to the employment of minors in hazardous, dangerous, and exploitative jobs such mining work, bonded labour, and hazardous industries. Child labour refers to the coercion or forced labour of minors, frequently in the form of debt bondage or slavery. Child Trafficking: Children are compelled to labour in a variety of industries, such as sex trade, domestic service, and agricultural, after being trafficked (ILO, 2017). Not every job performed by children falls under the category of child labour.

The general consensus is that it is beneficial for kids and teenagers to engage in economic employment as long as it doesn't negatively impact their health and personal growth, conflict with or disrupt their education, or prevent them from taking advantage of programs for vocational orientation or training.

Although the International Labour Organization (ILO) legislated on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL), which are defined in article 3 of ILO Convention 182 as forms of child labour that are a "priority to eliminate without delay," there is still debate about whether certain types of child labour work should be classified as de facto worst forms. The International Labour Organisation estimated that over 215 million children worldwide are labourers and engaged in activities that should be abolished. Amongst them, children under the age of 15 were about 152 million, and those engaged in hazardous or dangerous activities were about 115 million (ILO, 2010). The engagement of children in all kinds of hazardous work is a worry for every country.



According to the 2016 Global Estimates of Modern Slavery by ILO (2016), 4.3 million children under the age of 18 were forced labour victims, accounting for 18% of the total 24.8 million forced labour victims globally. The 4.3 million children comprise 1.0 million children subjected to commercial sexual exploitation, 3.0 million children subjected to other forms of labour exploitation, and 300,000 children subjected to state-imposed forced labour. Governments and the international community must take immediate action to address this extreme form of child labour, in which children are subjected to both hazardous working conditions and the trauma of coercion, threats of punishment, and a lack of freedom (ILO, 2017). According to numerous reports on child labour, 168 million children are working across the world,

and 85 million of them are doing dangerous employment (ILO 2016). With 59 million child labourers, Sub-Saharan Africa is the area with the greatest prevalence of child labour (ILO, 2016). Child labourers account for 14% of all children aged 5 to 17 years old (Development Education Unit). According to the most recent global estimate by ILO and UNICEF, 160 million children worldwide are employed as minors, an increase of 8.4 million over the previous four years. At the start of 2020, 97 million boys and 63 million girls, or nearly one in ten children worldwide, were employed into child labour. Nearly half of all children in child labour were engaged in hazardous employment that directly jeopardized their health, safety, and moral development. This worldwide estimate hides significant regional differences. Sub-Saharan Africa has a child labour prevalence of 24%, which is three times that of Northern Africa and Western Asia, the regions with the second-highest incidence. Child labour affects roughly 87 million children in Sub-Saharan Africa, which is more than the rest of the world combined (ILO, UNICEF, 2021).

According to the publication by International Labour Organization (ILO) (2016), Africa is home to nearly half of the world's child labourers, accounting for 72.1 million of the 152 million victims of child labour globally. It was alarming to learn that one in every five children in Africa was working as a child, with a prevalence of 19.6%, compared to 3% to 7% in other parts of the world, with an overwhelming concentration in agriculture, including fishing, forestry, animal husbandry, and aquaculture, which are common occupations in almost all African countries (Ghana Business News, 2017). Agricultural work, which accounts for 60% of child labour globally (Diallo et al 2010) cited in Lynette, (2020), mining, construction, manufacturing, domestic work, and several service industries are among these highly contentious forms of work. These are forms of employment that fall into the category

of hazardous child labour, ‘work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (IPEC, ILO, 2013 cited in Lynette, 2020).

The National Plan of Action on Elimination of Child Labour review report quoted the 2014 Ghana Living Standards survey, which put the country's child labour prevalence at one in five children and 21.8 percent of people between the ages of five and seventeen. According to the research, there was a higher percentage of child labourers in rural regions (30.2%) than in urban areas (12.4%). In Ghana, children were working around the house, doing cash crop cultivation, small-scale mining, quarrying, kayayei, commercial sex exploitation, and fishing (JICA, 2022).

The labour menace prompted the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to campaign against child labour through the implementation of various projects or programmes. For example, The Child Labour Monitoring (CLM) interventions began in the 1990s by the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) of the ILO to regularly check the places where girls and boys may be working. The overall objective of the CLM is to ensure that, children and young legally employed workers are protected from exploitation and hazards at work (ILO, IPEC, 2005).

According to a child labour survey, roughly 80% of all children working are classed as labourers (Ghana Statistical Service, 2014). This is because they are under the age of 18 and are working in jobs that endanger their health and safety or are subject to forced labour circumstances. According to a survey conducted by the Ghana Statistical Service in 2003, just over 1 million children under the age of 13 were working despite being technically barred from doing so. Exempted activities such as

mining, fishing, and stone quarrying were carried out by an estimated 242,074 children aged 13–17 years. As a result, roughly 1.3 million children in Ghana (19% of the projected 6.4 million at the time) were involved in activities that were illegal by national and international legislation. Around a decade later, in 2012, data from the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) revealed that nearly 1.5 million children aged 14 and under were engaged in banned work (GLSS, 2012; Okyere et al., 2021).

Child labour is a wide word that includes both paid and non-paid activities. As a result, the focus shifts from agricultural and industrial operations to home activities (Derby, 2012; Tetteh, 2011). As a result, researchers, child labour advocates, policymakers, and other stakeholders are beginning to pay attention to child domestic employment (Blagbrough, 2008; Tetteh, 2011). because of the environment in which it occurs, that is in people's houses or homes, child domestic labour does not receive much attention. Children and young people under the age of 18 who work in other people's homes doing domestic chores, caring for children, and running errands, among other tasks, have been referred to as "child domestic workers" (CDW) around the world.

According to Convention 189, adopted in 2011 by the 187 ILO member states, the ILO defines domestic work as work carried out in or for a household(s). The term "domestic worker" refers to any person engaged in domestic work within an employment relationship but does not include workers who perform domestic work sporadically or on a casual basis (ILO, 2013). Every household has been responsible for performing home duties. The use of minors as domestic labourers in households is a threat that must be avoided. This is because some of these children are subjected to inhumane conditions.

Domestic child labour is one of the most pervasive and exploitative types of child labour in the world today, as well as one of the most difficult to combat (Blagbrough, 2008). Due to the opacity and inaccessibility of the work environment, child domestic workers may be particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. To this end, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has highlighted several risks to which domestic workers are particularly vulnerable. Long and exhausting workdays; carrying heavy loads; handling dangerous items such as knives, axes, and hot pans; inadequate food; and humiliating, inhuman, or degrading treatment, including physical and verbal violence, and sexual abuse, are some of the most common risks children face in domestic service. These dangers must be viewed in the context of denial of children's essential rights, such as access to education and health care, as well as the right to rest, leisure, play, and recreation (ILO, 2011). Child domestic work is therefore a child labour issue, as well as a children's rights issue. It is a child labour issue as it involves economic exploitation and hazardous working conditions.

Domestic workers employ 67 million people worldwide, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2015). This number is continuously increasing over the world. In 2010, conservative estimates put the number of individuals doing this work at 52.6 million, accounting for 3.6% of worldwide wage employment (ILO, WIEGO, 2013). Domestic employees, on the other hand, are undercounted for in labour force surveys, thus the numbers might be much higher (WIEGO, 2021).

According to the most recent global estimates for Child Domestic Workers (CDW), 17.2 million children (aged 5–17 years) labour in households other than their own as paid or unpaid domestic workers. Girls account for more than two-thirds of these

children. Domestic employment is a highly gendered phenomenon, with unpaid female household reproductive labour on one hand and a continuum between unpaid domestic labour and fairly paid adult career alternatives for women outside the home. Furthermore, in the most recent global estimates for child labour, 11.5 million CDWs are working as children, whether owing to their age or the hazardous task they conduct (Kyegombe et al., 2021).

In research conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2008, 88 per cent of Ghanaian children aged 5 to 14 years have domestic tasks and obligations. Depending on where the children reside, their daily tasks can range from domestic (cooking, cleaning, caring for siblings, washing dishes, and running errands) to outside-the-home jobs (such as herding livestock, farming, petty trading, and other paid and unpaid activities). Work is an important part of what many Ghanaians consider to be normal and acceptable child upbringing (Okyere et. al., 2021).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Future leaders of every nation, including Ghana, are its children. Myers (2001), contends that children should spend their formative years engaging in education and play, with minimal household duties. Children are involved in domestic labour in Ghana for a number of reasons. Poverty has been identified as the most important reason for children involvement in domestic labour.

In research conducted by Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), (2021), it was found that many of the children migrate from the coastal areas to Kpando Torkor to fish. Also, in a publication by Ghanaweb on the 14th June 2007, the then Municipal Chief Executive, Hon. Adanuti describe the menace as of child labour as domestic imperialism and exploitation which needed to be uprooted

from the society. This has drawn the attention of both domestic and international organizations. According to a report by Ghana Business News on October 2, 2017, a four-day workshop to exchange experiences and ideas for organizing against child labour in Africa was organized by the ILO, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU) of Trades Union Congress (TUC) - Ghana. The workshop was held in the Kpando Municipal Assembly in the Volta Region and shared Ghana's success story in addressing child labour through the Torkor Model. According to a report by USAID, on February 22, 2018, the anti-CLaT (Child Labour and Trafficking) partners of the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project went on a full-day educational visit to "Kpando Torkor." This served to both locate child labour communities and aid in the rescue of children who were directly participating. In several areas, such as Kpando Torkor, GAWU has placed signposts with the message "Stop Child Labour" due to the existence of child labour in the Municipality.

However, the researcher has observed that most writers focus on child labour in the fishing and agricultural sectors, ignoring other fields like child domestic labour, which is just as detrimental to the child.

Child domestic labour here refers to domestic work performed by children under the legal minimum working age, as well as children over the legal minimum working age but under the age of eighteen, under slavery-like, hazardous, or other exploitative conditions (ILO, IPEC, 2007). Domestic labour is defined as work done in or for a household, according to ILO Convention 189, which was accepted in 2011 by 187 ILO member nations (s). The phrase "domestic labourer" refers to anyone who does domestic labour as part of a job, although it excludes individuals who conduct

domestic work on an irregular or casual basis (ILO, 2013 cited in Boateng and West, 2017). Child domestic labour can be exploitative and harmful, as it often involves children working long hours in poor conditions, being denied education, and suffering from physical and emotional abuse.

Child domestic labour remains a prevalent yet hidden issue with profound and lasting consequences, compromising the fundamental rights and well-being of countless children worldwide (Anker, 2016; ILO, 2017). In the pursuit of economic and household needs, children, often from marginalized and vulnerable backgrounds, are coerced into performing domestic work that exposes them to risks and robs them of essential educational opportunities and a nurturing childhood (UNICEF, 2019; ILO, 2017). This problem persists despite international conventions and national laws that are designed to protect children from exploitation and hazardous work, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (UN, 1989).

Across various regions and cultural contexts, children face arduous domestic labour conditions, which can resemble forced labour in many respects (HRW, 2020; Kabeer & Huq, 2005). They are often subjected to long working hours, inadequate nutrition, physical and emotional abuse, and are frequently deprived of access to formal education (IPEC, 2017; ILO, 2010). The consequences of child domestic labour are multifaceted, contributing to cycles of poverty, illiteracy, and societal inequalities (Anker, 2016).

In spite of the severity of this issue, comprehensive research, legislation, and enforcement mechanisms to combat child domestic labour are often inadequate or lacking in many regions (ILO, 2017). Cultural norms, economic necessity, and social

acceptance continue to perpetuate the cycle of child domestic labour, rendering it a deeply rooted and complex problem (Bachman, 2019; Nieuwenhuys, 2016).

Even though there exist studies on child domestic labour locally and internationally, many of these studies did not use the qualitative method: example, Emadul Islam et al, 2013; Morrison, 2015).

This research endeavour seeks to illuminate the multifaceted nature of child domestic labour, exploring its prevalence, causes, and far-reaching consequences, and pot by doing so, it endeavours to provide a robust foundation for future scholarly studies, policy formulation, and community-based initiatives aimed at eradicating child domestic labour and upholding the inalienable rights of every child to a safe, nurturing environment that fosters their full potential. Also, there is the real and existing problems of child domestic labour in the research area which other researchers and organisations have not focused on. This is evident in the area and realized through visits and interactions with households in the place and literature from other places. The researcher is yet to come across studies on prevalence of child domestic labour in Tokor in th Kpando Municipality. Therefore, the researcher chose to conduct this study to fill a vacuum in the literature on Ghana by bringing attention to juvenile domestic labour in the Kpando Municipality.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The study's goal is to determine how common child domestic labour is in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality in the Volta Region. Furthermore, to comprehend the experiences, factors, and outcomes of domestic work on children engaged in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality in the Volta Region.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The study sought to achieve the following objectives:

1. Assess the level of understanding of child domestic labour among the residents of Torkor in the Kpando Municipality.
2. Explore the challenges child domestic labours go through in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality.
3. Examine why children are involved in child domestic labour in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality.
4. Assess the effects of domestic labour on children in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality.



1.5 Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

1. What is the knowledge level of the residents on child domestic labour in the Kpando Municipality?
2. What are the challenges child domestic labours go through in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality?
3. What are the reasons for children involvement in child domestic labour in the Kpando Municipality?

4. How does child domestic labour have children in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study's findings will assist key agencies such as the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the Ministry of Health in implementing policy measures that will help Ghana combat child labour. Existing legislative frameworks on children's rights, welfare, and other issues that are based on outdated data and information would be fully resourced with current data. This might provide a good foundation for the adoption of legislative frameworks to address the country's child labour practices.

For their policy interventions on issues impacting children's welfare, households, state institutions, non-governmental organizations, and foreign donor agencies such as UNICEF constantly require trustworthy data. As a result, the study and its findings might be used to garner donor support, either directly or indirectly, to aid in the country's holistic approach to guaranteeing its future with children. The study will also contribute to the current literature on child labour and education by utilizing regression analysis to examine the impact of child labour on child labourers' health.

Also, the study will help the social welfare departments in availing the impact of child domestic labour on the future of the children.

1.7 Delimitations of the Study

The research was done in Kpando municipality in the Volta Region of Ghana. The scope of the study was limited to only one community within the municipality. The researcher was not able to conduct the research in all the communities in the Kpando

Municipality hence only one community was chosen where the practice of child domestic labour is prevalent; specifically, 'Kpando Torkor.' Also, the researcher used qualitative method.

1.8 Limitation of the Study

The study was conducted in a specific geographic location; hence, its results are speculative and cannot be extrapolated. The participants in the research were limited to guardians, employers, and minors who were doing child labour. Participants in the research also included chosen local elders as well as the Municipal Chief Executive of Kpando, the Municipal Director of Social Welfare, and others.

Additionally, the researcher encountered a circumstance in which the perpetrators of the offence refused to consent to interviewing the children. In order to achieve this, the researcher was able to track down one of the child domestic workers with the help of a local elder. The child's intern gave the researcher the addresses of additional houses where children are used as domestic helpers. The community was also informed by the researcher about the study's educational intent. The researcher was able to conduct the research in the study's community.

In addition, the researcher was unable to contact the parents of child domestic workers since they reside on the opposite bank of the river, where only boats may be used for transportation. It was difficult to get to them because of the weather conditions at the time and the danger of travelling for hours on the Volta Lake. When the researcher called them on the phone, they declined the call.

1.9 Definition of Terms and Abbreviations

Child: A child refers to an individual whose age falls between the ages of eleven to fifteen.

Child labour: It refers to the kind of work that endangers the development of the child.

Domestic worker: It refers to any person engaged in domestic work within employment.

R: Respondent

RQ: Research Question

1.10 Organization of the Study

The study was organised into five chapters. Chapter One concentrates on the introduction, background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose and objectives of the study, research questions, significance as well as the delimitations, limitations of the study, the definition of terms and organisation of the study. Chapter Two constitutes the review of related literature about the study. Chapter Three outlines and discusses the research methodology that was employed in carrying out the study. It comprises a presentation on the founded research approach, research design, profile of the study area, population, sample and sampling techniques, instrumentation, trustworthiness criteria, data collection procedures, data analysis, and ethical considerations. Chapter Four presents the findings and subsequent discussions. Here, the discussion is centred on data exploration to enable the researcher get accustomed to the data and pattern of response, the presentation of the findings and discussions based on the findings. Chapter Five is on the summary of the study, the key findings, conclusions, recommendations as well suggestions for future studies.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

This section examines books, the internet, journals, articles, and publications. This chapter is organized under the following headings:

1. Theoretical framework/Empirical Evidence
2. Concept of a child
3. Scope of child domestic labour
4. Causes of child domestic labour
5. Consequences of child domestic labour
6. Child Rights and Treaties
7. Government Policies and Action Plans/Strategy Concerning Child Labour

2.1 Empirical Evidence of the Problem

ILO, IPEC (2013) did an analytical study on 'Child Labour in Volta Lake fishing in Ghana'. It was found that working children usually go to school, but many of them also go fishing. This has an impact on their schoolwork and learning. The dilemma is exacerbated by parents' and guardians' inability to pay for all school supplies and fees. The study also found that children fund their education via their employment. This, along with other restraints, makes going to school unappealing, increasing the number of students dropping out to pursue full-time fishing. The study revealed that children who work do not have access to proper safety equipment. As a result, working children are exposed to a variety of hazards, risks, and accidents. Drowning, exposure to cold weather/cold waters, storms, viruses and infections, bites from animals and

reptiles and entrapments in fishing nets are only a few of the significant hazards that children face.

Furthermore, it was found that children are also vulnerable to a variety of injuries and illnesses. Fish bites/stings, cuts, noise-induced injury, fish poisoning, bruises, abrasions, back injuries/muscle injuries, fractured bones, blistering hands and feet, brain injuries, burns, vision impairment, and bone abnormalities are only some of the common ailments. In the event of an accident or injury, many victims seek medical help through the National Health Insurance System (NHIS). To continue, the study found that master employers or family members may come to their rescue on occasion. However, some people are unable to pay their medical expenditures, causing them to lose their jobs.

Also, it was found that the vast majority of working children are not paid and do not labour by any agreements. As a result, they are not compensated regularly. There are no remuneration packages either. The study also revealed that poverty levels are high due to a variety of factors, including declining fish catch due to overexploitation of fishery resources on the lake, artisanal and small-scale fishing using simple wooden canoes that can only catch small catches, and low income.

International Justice Mission (2013-2015) in a study 'Child Trafficking into Forced Labour on Lake Volta, Ghana' demonstrated that the majority of children employed in the Lake Volta fishing sector are under the age of ten. It was also found that in the fishing sector, females do a variety of positions, with the majority of duties being completed onshore or further inland rather than on the lake. The survey also indicated that both boys and girls work in the Lake Volta fishing sector, which is physically

hard and occasionally dangerous. A bigger percentage of minors compelled to work on the southern shores of Lake Volta was trafficked.

Furthermore, the study demonstrated that children trafficked into the fishing sector had contractual agreements for their exploitation, which were typically between the trafficker and the child's parent/guardian, according to the study. While many of the abusers are low-income fishermen, they do not rely on trafficked children to make ends meet. The study revealed that in reality, trafficking children allowed them to send their children to school and offer better housing and clothing for their own families. Access to schooling, working conditions—such as working longer hours and being assigned more intense, dangerous, or challenging tasks — and unsuitable clothing and housing were all criteria that separated trafficked children from non-trafficked children. The fishing business on Lake Volta was rife with physical abuse towards children, with parents/guardians in source towns stating that their children were "beaten like goats." The study found that traffickers used violence and limited access to food to control children and that, older guys were sometimes held in their jobs by sexual incentives and marriage. Girls in the fishing sector were subject to a variety of types of victimization as a result of the latter control measures.

Kamruzzaman Bhuiyan, (2019) observed the situation of child domestic workers that are in forced labour in Bangladesh (Chittagong). It was found that many of child domestic workers begin their day around 6 a.m., while some wake up at 5 a.m., and only a few have the opportunity to rise at 7 a.m. It was discovered that the majority of them are required to labour more than 16 hours every day, which is inhumane. It was found from the study that child domestic employees are dissatisfied with their employers' working circumstances. The majority of them sleep in the kitchenette or

front of the television. It was found that most of the children sleep on the floor since they do not have a bed. Also, the study found that asthma, pneumonia, flu, and other illnesses plagued several child domestic workers. The findings according to the survey, parents ignored their children's living circumstances and compelled them to stay at their employer's homes since they provide financial benefits to them. It was discovered that some parents of child domestic workers feel that the children's circumstances were determined by the gods in terms of their fate. Some of the employers were found to have made a lot of promises to the parents of the child domestic workers but later some of these promises turn out to be lies.

Emadul et al. (2013) examined the situation of child domestic workers in Bangladesh. The data demonstrated that child domestic workers in Bangladesh are denied access to education, with a large percentage of CDWs (26.7%) never attending school. In addition, individuals who have attended school have a relatively low educational level, receiving just elementary (up to fifth grade) education before dropping out. The survey indicated that 20.8 per cent of CDWs had access to non-formal education, which is provided by various NGOs in Bangladesh. On the other hand, a large percentage of CDWs (79.2%) do not have access to non-formal education. Participants in the research (75.83) stated that they want to go to school. According to the study's answers, they get a pittance and work a 24-hour shift, waking up before anybody in the owner's family and going to work after them. They don't have much free time, but they do receive some rest and are constantly ready to obey the owner's orders. The findings found that most participants felt that child domestic employment is a modern kind of slavery because of the exploitative conditions in which they operate. Some people disagreed according to the findings with this viewpoint that child domestic employment is the worst form of child labour and one of the most

limited types of job. The study also highlighted that CDWs' physical and mental development has been negatively impacted by excessive working hours and hostile situations.

Hastings (2013) in evaluating the effectiveness of Domestic Child Labour Programmes in densely populated areas in Lilongwe found that around 5566 boys and girls aged 17 and under labour in homes. According to the findings, 170 of the estimated number of child labourers are allowed to attend school while working. According to the report, around 1700 children do not receive formal recompense for their labour; instead, their parents or guardians are compensated. In addition, the children receive clothing and food in exchange for their labour. In terms of causes, it was found that poverty is the primary motivator of domestic child labour. It was also discovered that poverty is caused by broken families caused by parent separation or death. Also, no project or community push to address domestic child labour issues, and most people were unaware of child labour laws.

Chanda (2014) investigated the impact of child domestic labour on children's education in Zambia. The study found that domestic employment hurts child domestic workers' schooling. It was found that their attendance declined and the children eventually drop out of school to focus on their work. Also, the children's school performance suffered as a result of their inability to focus on their academics. Furthermore, it was discovered that children's enrolment was harmed as a result of their preference for domestic work over schooling. In terms of gender, it was discovered that child labour prevents all children from receiving an inclusive education since more girls than boys drop out of school to work as domestic workers. As a result, progress toward gender equality in education has been hampered.

Morrison (2015) found that employers lock their domestic staff inside the house when they leave. According to the report, a large percentage of domestic child labourers (72.5%) are restricted to their homes and can only leave when their employers let them. Child domestic employees are forced to stay in their employers' homes against their will as a result of this type of situation.

Shatil Ara et al. (2011) in their research 'From Open Fields to Secluded Households: Child Domestic Workers in Bangladesh,' found that many agreements were made between employers and families of domestic employees for the advantage or reward of the children and their parents. In most cases, however, a predetermined monthly payment to the parents is agreed upon. Another popular arrangement is to pay a certain amount for a set period for a service to be given. In this instance, a portion of the wage is frequently provided to the parents as a credit that must be paid back by the child, a type of indentured labour. It was found that children and their parents obtain additional advantages for the services performed by the child in some cases, as a result of a mix of different types of agreements. Furthermore, it was found that employers assured the families that their children's marriage and dowry payment would be guaranteed when they recruit these vulnerable children, especially females. This was a promise that many employers did not keep. Uninformed parents agreed to the employer's recommendations and transferred their children to a foreign environment where they did not only remain all day but also performed nearly all of the tasks for the employer's family. They are convinced that after they marry, their lives would be better than they are now. Another motivation for working in a household is to be able to pay the dowry. Also, it was found that the majority of child domestic workers received their wages every month as promised, but it was taken away by their parents or set aside by their employers. To the children, they were

seeking to free their families of the financial strain of dowry payments. It was also revealed from the study that some child domestic workers are only fed after the employer's family has finished breakfast, lunch, or supper. Also, the majority of the time, it was the hungry child domestic worker that prepared the dinner, only for them to eat it late. Some of the children were also discovered eating the leftovers from a guest's supper. The study also found that the children's employment conditions are equivalent to slavery. The employees live with the employer and are expected to be ready at all times to do various chores because there was no physical distinction between the work area and the residential environment. Also, sexual assault by friends of the child's domestic employers was revealed in the study. They are slapped, kicked, punched, yanked by their hair, or addressed in rude and disgusting ways for any indiscretion.

The Freedom Fund and Population Council (2021) carried out a study titled 'Reducing the prevalence of child domestic servitude in Addis Ababa: Stakeholder and expert scoping study.' it was found that many of the child domestic workers were recruited through deception. Many of them were recruited on the promise that they will be sent to school whilst others, had attractive salaries. It was found that some of the parents gave out their children to these rich employers based on these promises which never materialised when the children finally get to their workplace. Furthermore, the study found that some child domestic workers were maltreated. Poor sleeping conditions, insufficient health care, exclusion from schooling (despite promises), sometimes school sanctions were mentioned as punishment for "poor" work, and prohibition from childhood activities or time with friends when not working were just a few of the abuses they were subjected to. It was discovered that some employers exaggerated physical agony by slapping, striking, spitting on,

punching, and injuring the children with weapons. Also noted was the habit of placing hot spoons or hot metal on a child's body. Child labourers are subjected to emotional abuse in the form of yelling, embarrassment, and shaming. The survey also discovered that many juvenile domestic employees were subjected to sexual harassment but find it difficult to speak out about it. The study found that some child domestic workers were provided medical services when they suffer physical abuse from their employers however, the cost of treatment was deducted from their salaries or paid by the child herself.

Kyegombe et al. (2021) carried out research to evaluate Interventions with child domestic workers and found that for a variety of logistical, ethical, and political reasons, there have been very few assessments of treatments targeted at teenagers who are currently working as domestic workers. It was also found that even when domestic workers were involved in interventions, the data was not disaggregated to determine the specific effects of the activities on child domestic workers. Some studies with better quality scores revealed some hopeful impacts of treatments for girls, who are particularly vulnerable to poor health, injury, and marginalization. In Burkina Faso, for example, the Trickle Up programs were found to reduce depression and trauma symptoms. Furthermore, the Birth Tesfa intervention in Ethiopia promoted higher HIV awareness and better healthcare utilization.

2.2 The Concept of Child

A child is defined as "a person under the age of eighteen years" under the Republic of Ghana's Children's Act of 1998 (Act 560). Both the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the ILO Convention on the Prohibition and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour agree on what constitutes a child. "A child" is defined in

Article 1 of the CRC as "any human being under the age of eighteen (18) years unless a majority is acquired earlier under the law applicable to the child."

2.3 Scope of Child Domestic Labour

Child domestic labour is domestic work performed by children under the legal minimum working age, as well as children over the legal minimum working age but under the age of eighteen, under slavery-like, hazardous, or other exploitative conditions – a type of "child labour to be eliminated" as defined by international treaties (IPEC, 2007).

Domestic labour is defined as work done in or for a household, according to ILO Convention 189, which was accepted in 2011 by 187 ILO member nations (s). The phrase "domestic labourer" refers to anyone who does domestic labour as part of a job, although it excludes individuals who conduct domestic work on an irregular or casual basis (ILO, 2013 cited in Boateng & West, 2017).

Under Article 1 of the ILO Convention No. 189, "Domestic labour" is defined as labour conducted in or for a home or individual conducting domestic work in the employment relationship. However, a person who does domestic labour only rarely or intermittently and not regularly is not covered by the treaty (ILO Convention No. 189, Article 1(b), 2011). A domestic labour may work full-time or part-time, for a single family or numerous employers, and may live in the employer's home (live-in worker) or his or her own home (live-out).

Also, domestic work refers to a wide range of tasks and services that differ by nation and can also vary based on the employees' age, gender, ethnicity, and migrant status, as well as the cultural and economic setting in which they operate. As a result,

measuring domestic labour and the people who execute it based on the activities they complete is still partial and difficult to conduct from one setting to the next. Domestic workers are hired by and give services to third-party private houses (Pflug, 2002; Thorsen, 2012; ILO, 2013 cited in Boateng & West, 2017) which is a frequent and distinguishing feature of Convention No. 189.

Domesticlabours who work in other people's homes have long been neglected as employees and denied fundamental rights. They have, nonetheless, made significant progress in recent years. At the International Labour Conference in 2011, they were successful in getting governments, employers, and workers to sign the Convention (C189) and accompanying Recommendation on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. By the year 2019, 28 countries had ratified C189 (WIEGO, 2021). Domestic workers are among the world's most disadvantaged populations, frequently subjected to physical and sexual abuse, as well as discrimination and marginalization in terms of income, working conditions, and legal rights (Mulugeta, 2012 cited in Demarso & Abba, 2020). Domestic workers are one of the least protected types of employees under domestic labour legislation notwithstanding their vulnerability according to ILO data (ILO, 2013 cited in Demarso & Abba, 2020). The subservient relationship, paternalistic outlook, poor economic standing, low level of education, nature of the profession, and isolation all contribute to their vulnerability to abuse, harassment, and violence (Gebremedhin, 2016 cited in Demarso & Abba, 2020).

The International Labour Conference (ILC) acknowledged the need for a unique international tool for domestic workers in 1948. However, no such tool, convention or guideline has been introduced in decades (WIEGO, 2021). It began to change in 2007 when the 100th International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva adopted the

Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189) and accompanying recommendations as a result of a coordinated worldwide movement by domestic workers and their groups (WIEGO, 2021).

WIEGO has been providing financial and technical assistance to help build and expand a worldwide network of domestic workers and secure C189 for years.

2.4 Causes of Child Domestic Labour

There are numerous reasons why children are involved in child domestic work.

2.4.1 Poverty/unemployment

Children from low-income families are frequently employed as domestic labourers by rich families. This claim is backed by Fatusi et al (2002) cited in Nwamaka (2014) that financial troubles compel some parents and guardians to sell, trade, or leave their children. They claim that these children are forced to participate in different income-generating activities in order to survive. Poverty is unquestionably the leading cause of child domestic employment since parents of lower socioeconomic positions expect their children's labour to provide a financial contribution to the family. In this way, the child financially supports his or her family, and gage in other economic ventures. This is to help raise enough money to feed the family. Lindert (1976) cited in Nwamaka (2014) holds a similar viewpoint. He believes that most children work to guarantee their families and their survival. Even though these children are underpaid, their little wages provide financial respite to their families.

Many of the domestic children's families are impoverished, and others are unemployed. They cannot even afford to feed their children, let alone send them to school. Because their parents are destitute, the children are sent to work for other

wealthy families, either as a reward or to improve their living conditions. A bulk of research in developing nations demonstrates that disadvantaged families are more likely than families in better economic situations to put their children in child labour. This is because they cannot afford to feed and care for their children. Parents send their children to live and work with people they don't even know. These children are dispatched to various locations as domestic labourers. Many of these children come from families that struggle to get a three-square meal a day. They are sent to work as domestic workers whilst their families are rewarded in return. Some are also withdrawn from school to help the family business. Faiza (2015) reported in Atambilla (2017) in a study on poverty and child labour in Sudan opined that 67.7% of children from disadvantaged households enter the labour market earlier than they should. Furthermore, the study discovered a relationship between child labour and household socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. When a family's income is high, investing in education is not a difficult decision. When a family's income is poor, however, deciding whether or not to invest in education becomes considerably more difficult. As a family's income declines, the decision of whether or not to invest in education is replaced with the decision of whether or not to send their children to work. This can take the form of children providing an income, working to pay for education, reducing the family's spending budget, or assisting with home tasks so that another family member can work (Cumming, 2016). This means that a lot of children are into child domestic labour because their parents or family do not have enough money to take care of the family. Because of this, the child would have to work to assist the family or parents raise enough money.

Research conducted by National Commission on Civic Education (N.C.C.E), in 2006 revealed a variety of circumstances under which families will allow their children to work. It was found that over half of those who stated they would let their children work did so for the reasons listed below. Some respondents (22.9%) indicated they would let children work if their income was poor, implying that children are attempting to take over their parents' responsibilities. This isn't the case, and it shouldn't be. Another 12.7% of those polled indicated they would let their children work if they owned the company. This highlights poverty as an underlying cause of child labour, emphasizing the need to boost people's income levels as a long-term solution to child labour.

Furthermore, some of these children are forced into dangerous labour because their parents are frequently jobless or underemployed, searching for stable jobs and cash. It is often their offspring who are offered the jobs, even though they are less powerful and paid less. To put it another way, minors are hired because they are more easily exploited (UNICEF, 1997).

2.4.2 Lack of access to formal education/ ignorance

The significant number of children in child domestic labour who are not enrolled in school despite being within the age limit for compulsory schooling is particularly concerning. Nearly 28% of children aged 5 to 11 and 35% of children aged 12 to 14 who work as children are out of school. This drastically limits their opportunities for decent work throughout their adolescence and maturity, as well as their total life potential. Boys and urban children who work as children are more likely to be out of school, although the differences are minor (ILO, UNICEF, 2021). This is true because

the children will be occupied with house whole chores and will not have time for school. Some will drop out of school when they start earning money.

Also, some of the parents are ignorant while some did not benefit or partially benefited from formal education. This made some of the parents unable to secure any meaningful jobs. They face financial difficulties and hence cannot sponsor their children through school. They prefer giving out the child to work for money for the upkeep of the family. In a website publication by ILO in January 2022, in places where schools exist, children and their parents often do not see education as a viable alternative to a job. Schooling is simply costly for many households. Even if it is free, there is a perceived opportunity cost of the revenue lost while a child is at school rather than working. The education provided is frequently of poor quality and seen as unrelated to local requirements. These children do not go to school and hence end up in the homes of the rich as domestic workers for a salary or reward. The parents are also comfortable when giving out their children for this kind of work. They are not aware of some of the dangers their children go through and also the future repercussion of their decisions on their children.

2.4.3 Rural-urban migration

Child domestic labour is very high in urban areas due to the migration of children from rural areas in search of greener pastures with the hope of changing the poor condition of their parents. The harsh living condition in the rural areas forced some of them to leave the rural areas for the urban centre. Some parents willingly give out these children to their relations who are in the cities with the hope of the children having a good education. Some of these children who migrate to the cities end up becoming domestic workers. They are sometimes prevented from talking to their

parents back in the village. A report by ILO 2004 cited in a publication by the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Form of Child Labour in Ghana 2017-2021, posits that some children are motivated to migrate to cities by media accounts or their peers who have returned from the Metropolis.

Child migration is also a result of parents' failure to care for their children. Some parents also relocate from the north to the south in search of work so that they can see their spouses and children in the countryside. In research conducted in Argentina, Chile, and South Africa, it was found that there were 11 times as many inter-province child migrants as international ones (Van De Glind, 2010).

In a small sample size research undertaken by the IPEC and Child Helpline International (CHI) in Peru, Kenya, and Nepal, it was found that nearly all girls and half of migratory child labourer boys worked in the domestic sector. In comparison to nonimmigrant child labourers, a substantial share of these migrant child labourers worked for families (Dorien, 2019). In West Africa, it is common for girls aged 8 to 14 years old from low-income families to migrate for domestic work from Togo to Ghana, Senegal, and Gambia to Mauritania (UNCTAD, 2018).

Also, girls were more likely than boys to move domestically at a younger age, according to a survey on internal independent child migration in Ghana. Girls are simpler to move about in a patriarchal culture than boys, according to one theory, since they are less rooted in their native group (Hashim 2005 cited in Van De Glind, 2010). Young girls frequently move for domestic labour, which, because it is performed in the private realm, exposes them to abuse and exploitation (Van De Glind, 2010).

2.4.4 Cultural and religious factors

Civilizations in many nations force children to begin working at an early age due to traditional and cultural influences. They assumed that children should learn skills that will benefit them in the future (Buame, 2019). Buame (2019) citing Tauson (2009) posits that parents in rural Guatemala prefer their children to work because they believe it is useful for them to gain basic job skills.

Some parents believe that for their child to live an imaginative life, he or she must be active in household labour. Some parents feel that involving their children in household chores prepares them for adulthood. They involve children as young as seven years old in potentially hazardous domestic tasks. Fish mugging, waking up at dawn sweeping a large compound and lifting heavy objects while fetching water is just a few examples.

Several cultural or traditions, that formerly served a useful function have since become perverted, culminating in child exploitation. The conventional foster care system, for example, has left a legacy of child domestic servants. 'Trokosi,' one of Ghana's harshest types of child labour, is an example of such cultural, traditional, and religious practices. 'Trokosi' is a form of ritual slavery used by several Ghanaian communities in the south (Ameh, 2001; Gadri, 2010 cited in Isaac, 2016: p. 25). It is a tradition in which girls, generally virgins, are given to shrines as retribution for wrongs committed by a family member or as payment for some benefit gained from the temple. Some of these girls are as young as seven years old. At the shrine, the girls become the shrine heads' or priests' property and services in a variety of roles, including child-bearing (Ameh, 2001; Gadri, 2010 cited in Isaac 2016, p. 25). They are also involved in domestic work under harsh conditions.

The 'Trokosi' girls travel far distance to fetch water even though they have pipe-borne water in their community. This is a tradition by the gods they serve. They are not allowed to put on a dress or slippers whilst travelling or staying in the house. They are only permitted to put a piece of cloth around their body. This situation is dehumanizing. The girls lose their dignity before the public. This is because people consider them as sacred and should not be approached by everybody.

In Asia, looking for a job in a home has long been regarded as a cultural coping technique for disadvantaged households. Children are frequently expected to contribute to home income in some form. In many communities, putting children from low-income families with richer relatives is a long-standing custom that is seldom, if ever, questioned (Ayaka and Blagb, 2005). Many African societies believe that child's domestic labour is part of a natural socialization process that prepares them for their eventual responsibilities in life. Child labour, according to this perspective, is an inherent element of home labour organization, which is based on a family structure, rather than a type of child maltreatment. Domestic labour continues to have a special meaning for girls. When it comes to getting married, a girl's ability to undertake household tasks is seen as a plus (Collette, 2001)

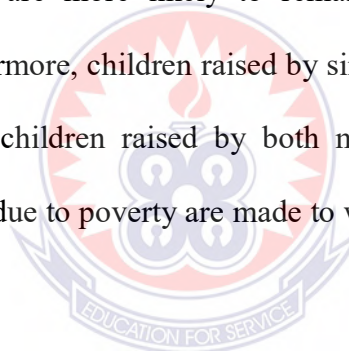
2.4.5 Divorce/absence of parents

Parents may be missing from their children's lives due to death, divorce, or separation. The loss of a parent (parents) can be a watershed moment in a child's life since it can lead to insufficient care from other family members. Children in such conditions would be forced to fend for themselves and support their immediate families (Hamenoo et al, 2018). Households' economic situations deteriorate following divorce, especially among mother-headed families ((Kalil & Ryan, 2010). Because

their parents are unable to fully support them, many children from divorced families are pushed into child domestic labour. This is due to their financial problem and the fact that they would have to work to support themselves and their families. In certain cases, the child has no one to look after him or her at all.

A study by Webbink et al. (2013) cited in Pereira et al. (2018) on 221 districts in 18 developing nations indicated that when the father or mother of the child is absent from the family, children are more likely to work. For boys, the effect is stronger than for girls.

A study by the United States Census Bureau (2014) cited in Pereira et al (2018) posits that unmarried women are more likely to remain in poverty than married and unmarried males. Furthermore, children raised by single moms are considerably more likely to be poor than children raised by both married parents. This means that children in these homes due to poverty are made to work in the homes of other people for a fee for care.



2.5 Consequences of Child Domestic Labour

2.5.1 Impact on the education of the child

It's hardly unexpected that children who work as domestic servants don not attend school. Some students who are given the option to attend school do not go to school regularly. They are preoccupied with the activity at hand and hence fail to concentrate on their academic work. According to the National Plan of Action (Phase II) on the Elimination of the Worse form of Child Labour 2017-2021 reports, over 60% of children who do not attend school are engaged in child labour or its most heinous forms or dangerous jobs. Meanwhile, despite continuous increases in gross and net enrolment ratios over the preceding years, completion rates in basic education for

both primary and secondary schools decreased in the 2013/2014 school years, reversing a four-year increasing trend between 2009 and 2013. Retention rates remained the same. Child labour may be effectively combated by ensuring that children receive a good education. Many teenagers work and attend school simultaneously. This affects their educational opportunities. The negative consequences of child labour on education cannot be concealed by keeping children in school while also removing them from harmful employment.

Research in Zambia in the efforts to achieve universal primary education and other Millennium Development Goals revealed that child domestic labour not only jeopardizes the lives of individual children but also stymies national poverty reduction and development initiatives. Children who are driven out of school and into labour to assist their families make ends meet are deprived of the chance to develop the information and skills necessary for future meaningful work, prolonging the poverty cycle (ILO, UNICEF, World Bank, 2009 cited in Patrick, 2014).

A survey of child domestic workers conducted in Bangladesh by Emadul et al (2013) found that 5.8% of domestic workers are illiterates, 11.7 per cent can only sign, 26.7 per cent can read and write, only 25.0 per cent have completed primary education, 30.0 per cent cannot continue primary education and 1% for others. This clearly shows how dangerous child domestic labour is to the child's education. Because the right to education is necessary for the enjoyment of other rights, denial of the right to education involves the denial of other rights as well. These discoveries suggest that child domestic labour has a detrimental impact on children's education because they drop out of school to work and make ends meet (Chander, 2014).

Furthermore, child domestic labour may contribute to school dropout in some cases since it encourages pupils to arrive late to school and engage in truant behaviour (Hamano et al, 2018). Also, children drop out of school because they must work to cover their basic requirements, such as food and clothing, as well as assist their parents in paying rent. In this sense, domestic labour has a detrimental impact on children's education, since their attendance declines and they finally drop out of school to focus on employment. Children who mix employment and school have low academic achievement because they are unable to focus on both their education and their work at the same time (Chander, 2014). This is because the child will have less time for his or her books. Sometimes, the child after heavy work becomes tired and finds it difficult to concentrate on his or her books.

2.5.2 Impact on the health of the child

Every child has the right to be free from employment that is harmful to his or her health, education, or development (NAPII report, 2017-2018). A lot of children have been exposed to work that is hazardous to them. A worldwide report by ILO, 2017, estimated that about 73 million children were involved in hazardous employment in 2017, accounting for nearly half of the 152 million children in child labour (ILO, 2018). Hazardous child labour is defined as employment that is likely to affect children's health, safety, or morality due to its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out. Also, anything that has the potential to inflict bodily pain, disease, or mental impairment, or hinder physical, intellectual, or emotional development is considered a 'hazard' (ILO, 2018). Because infants are too young to be exposed to such conditions, all of this has an impact on their health. Some of these children are assigned challenging tasks to complete within short periods. Because of the nature of some of these children's jobs, they don't get enough sleep.

In research conducted by the Freedom Fund and Population Council in Addis Ababa in 2021, concerning the dangers of domestic employment, the majority of the respondents mentioned neglect or malnourishment, physical violence, verbal or emotional abuse, and sexual assault as some of the troubles they go through. Some also claimed varying degrees of physical abuse, ranging from light or minor acts such as slapping or hitting, shoving, or spitting, to more serious acts such as biting, kicking, punching, choking or suffocating, or physically injuring with weapons or hard objects. This is confirmed in research conducted by the Ghana Statistical Service (2014) cited in Karikari (2016) that a percentage of working children aged 5 to 17 have been frequently screamed at, whilst others have been constantly insulted. Some have also been beaten or physically abused, and others sexually assaulted. This shows that many of these children will suffer from health problems due to the cruel treatment given to them by their employers. It is possible that the child's memory can be lost and this can affect the ability of the child to reason well.

Also, many of these children suffer from psychological problems due to the cruel treatment meted out to them by their employers. They suffer brain injuries and memory defects due to the assault from their employers. Research in Brazil revealed that child domestic workers in low-income metropolitan regions had 1.6 times the greater frequency of behavioural disorders than those in better-income ones (Zimmerman et al, 2021). Physical abuse against domestic workers in children varied from 1.7 per cent in Thailand to 71.4 per cent in Haiti (Zimmerman et al, 2021). Domestic accidents, which can result in death or permanent deformity, physical and mental assault, sexual harassment, overwork, insufficient rest periods, little or no remuneration, severe exploitation, and drifting into criminal gangs are all common risks of child domestic labour (Nwankaba, 2014). In some of the homes, the male

children and their dads sexually torment these children, especially the girls. Some are also offered to males who want to fulfil their sexual fantasies. Sometimes, the employers occasionally accept monetary presents in exchange for the services of these children. Due to the sexual maltreatment by these predators, these children go through a lot of traumas and see sex as an evil act. In a research study, it was found that the number of underage commercial sex workers in Ghana is increasing (Agyemang, 2006 cited in Karikari, 2016). A lot of children may not have started as sex workers but have gotten involved in transactional sexual encounters as a result of child labour. Gifts, financial prizes, and favours are frequently exchanged in return for sex in transactional sexual relationships. Prostituted children and individuals who participate in transactional sexual interactions are more vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS and syphilis, as well as other severe ailments (Williams et al, 2012 cited in Karikari 2016).

A study by the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS6), found that out of 804,474 work-related injuries affecting children aged 5 to 17, 73.1 per cent (about 588,070) occurred as a result of child labour. The study also detailed the types of assault and abuse children were subjected to. Many of these children who work in domestic settings particularly, girls, become sex instruments for their male bosses. Involvement in child labour without proper adult protection enhances the vulnerability of most young people, especially girls, and exposes them to the actions of sexual predators (Audu et al., 2009; Gharaibeh & Hoeman, 2003; Tetteh, 2011 cited in Karikari 2016).

In research conducted by ILO and IPEC, (2013) on Child Domestic Workers in Indonesia, it was found that some domestic workers had been sexually harassed by their former male employers. It was described as an "attempted rape" by one of them.

After the first event, one quit immediately, and another was thrown out of the house after the incident was discovered by other members of the family. Due to accusations of stealing and carelessness, child domestic workers were subjected to physical assault. This menace affects the child psychologically.

2.5.3 Violation of the right of the child

In Ghana, the minimum age to engage a child in 'light labour' is 13 years, while the minimum age to engage a child in 'regular work' is 15 years. Light work is defined as employment that is unlikely to harm a child's health or development and does not interfere with the child's attendance at school or ability to profit from academics. The law makes it illegal to force a child to work in an exploitative situation. When a child's health, education, or development is jeopardized, labour is exploitative. Children must not labour at night, that is, between the hours of eight o'clock in the evening and six o'clock in the morning (Forest Trends, 2020).

Every child is a citizen of a country, and every country has a constitution that protects children's rights. This means that any act of employment that denies a child a certain benefit is an infringement of the child's right.

A lot of children have been forced into domestic labour even though they are unhappy with it. In section 117 of Act 651, forced labour is defined as employment or service that is demanded from a person under duress and for which that person has not willingly consented to work. The labour necessary during wartime, in the execution of a court sentence, by a member of a disciplined army or service, or as part of a routine community or other civic responsibilities is not considered forced labour (Forest Trends, 2020).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted into international law in 1989, defines children's rights, reaffirms inherent human dignity, emphasizes and protects the role of the family in children's lives, and seeks respect and protection for children (UNICEF, 2004 cited in Lily, 2011). Child domestic labour is against the rights of the child. This is because it takes away certain privileges and dignity of the child. These rights are specified in both local and international treaties that every country has signed. For example, Article 1 of the International Labour Organization's Minimum Age Convention of 1973 (C138) specifies that members must progressively raise the minimum age for entrance to employment or work to a level consistent with the fullest physical and mental development of young persons. Article 2 stipulates those members who ratify the convention must designate a minimum age for entrance to employment or work within their territory in a declaration attached to their ratification and that no one under that age shall be admitted to employment or work in any occupation. Article 2 again stipulates that the minimum age stated must be at least the age of compulsory schooling completion and, in any event, not less than 15 years. It recognizes, however, that some member nations with underdeveloped economies and educational institutions may first designate a minimum age of 14 years after consulting with employers and workers' organizations where such organizations exist.

Article 32 recognizes the need to protect children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous, interfere with the child's education, or be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development while Article 28 provides children with the right to education and urges states to make primary schooling compulsory, Article 32 again recognizes the need to protect children from economic exploitation and from performing any work

that is likely to be hazardous, interfere with the child's education, or be harmful to the child.

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Children Act of 1998 posits that no one shall deny a child the right to live with his parents and family and grow up in a caring and peaceful environment unless it is proven in court that living with his parents would – (a) cause significant harm to the child; (b) expose the child to serious abuse, or (c) not be in the child's best interests. It continued to say that no one shall deny a child access to school, immunization, proper nutrition, clothes, housing, medical care, or any other thing necessary for his growth, according to section 8. Section 12 of the act states that no one shall subject a child to exploitative labour as defined in section 87 (No one shall engage a child in exploitative labour).

It is therefore an issue of concern when the child is exposed to certain activities that contribute to the denial of his or her freedom and peace of mind. These rights of the child are inherent and must not be taken away from them no matter the circumstances.

2.6 Child Labour Policies and Legislation

Child labour is a problem facing every country. Many of the issues relating to child labour are a concern to every nation including Ghana. Due to the nature of the problem concerning child labour, a lot of policies both national and international have been put in place to eliminate the problem. Most of the policies are geared toward the protection of the right of children from child labour and its related negative effects on the child as an individual.

2.6.1 International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESC)

Ghana is also a party to International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESC) in 2000. The convention admonishes all states to protect the universal right and freedom of all persons under the UN Charter. According to article 1 of the convention, all persons have the right to self-determination. It continued to state that all persons have the right to freely pursue their social, cultural and economic development.

Furthermore, article 10 of the convention stipulates that special protection and aid measures should be adopted on behalf of all children and young people, without regard to their parentage or other circumstances. Also, the economic and social exploitation of children and young people must be avoided. It states that any employment in jobs that are detrimental to their morality or health is risky to their lives, or likely to obstruct their natural growth should be illegal. States are also admonished to establish age restrictions below which paid child labour should be forbidden and criminalized.

The state parties also agree in article 13 section 2 that primary education shall be free and compulsory. Also, secondary education in any form, including technical and vocational shall be made available and accessible by every means and particular by the progressive introduction of free education. This is to help every child to have access to education regardless of their financial status. It is also to make parents have the desire to send their children to school without complaining about finances.

2.6.2 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

In 2000, Ghana ratified International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The convention stipulates in article 7 that no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel

treatment. In article 8 of the convention, holding a person in all forms of slavery and servitude is considered a crime. Also, engaging people in forced labour is prohibited. Furthermore, article 24 also stresses the right of the child to be protected as a minor by the family, society or state regardless of race, culture, language, religion, or national or social origin.

This right also protects the child from child domestic labour. This is because child domestic labour is mostly against the will of the child. The children are forced to work in homes that are foreign to them. It is a crime according to this convention to force the child to work as a domestic worker.

2.6.3 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The convention on the right of the child is a UN charter that was ratified on 20th November 1989 and came into force on 2nd September 1990. The convention made provisions for the right of the child to be protected. The convention defines a child as a person below eighteen years. In article 2, the convention admonishes states parties to ensure that the right of the child is respected and not discriminated against regardless of the parent's background, race, colour, sex, religion, ethnic or social origin. It also demands from state parties to protect the right of the child from all forms of discrimination and punishment based on status, activities and expressed opinion. In article 3, the convention stipulates that the interest and well-being of the child should be considered when taking action against the child by the law courts, social welfare and other legislative bodies.

Furthermore, state parties are admonished to ensure that institutions responsible for the protection of the right of the child conform to the standard established by the competent authorities, particularly in the area of health and safety. In article 8, the

state parties were admonished to ensure that the child is provided for by the state when he or she is illegally deprived of his or her identity. The convention demands from state parties in article 19 to take legislative measures to protect the child from mental or physical abuse, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse while in the care of the parents or any other person. The educational right of the child is also recognized in article 28 of the convention.

2.6.4 UN CRC optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography

This protocol also tries to protect the children by safeguarding their rights. In article 1 of the convention, the state parties are to prohibit the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography as provided for by the present Protocol. In article 2, the protocol explains the sale of children as (a). any act or transaction whereby a child is transferred by any person or group of persons to another for remuneration or any other consideration; (b) child prostitution as the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration; (c) child pornography as any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes. Furthermore, article 8 states that parties shall adopt appropriate measures to protect the rights and interests of child victims of the practices prohibited under the present Protocol at all stages of the criminal justice process, in particular by: (a) recognizing the vulnerability of child victims and adapting procedures to recognize their special needs, including their special needs as witnesses; (b) informing child victims of their rights, their role and the scope, timing and progress of the proceedings and of the disposition of their cases; (c) allowing the views, needs and concerns of child victims to be presented and considered in proceedings where their

personal interests are affected, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law; (d) providing appropriate support services to child victims throughout the legal process; (e) protecting, as appropriate, the privacy and identity of child victims and taking measures in accordance with national law to avoid the inappropriate dissemination of information that could lead to the identification of child victims; (f) providing, in appropriate cases, for the safety of child victims, as well as that of their families and witnesses on their behalf, from intimidation and retaliation; (g) avoiding unnecessary delay in the disposition of cases and the execution of orders or decrees granting compensation to child victims.

2.6.4 Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

2.6.4.1 ILO Convention No. 138, Minimum Age

The International Labour Organization (ILO) approved C138 in 1973. It stipulates that those states should gradually raise the minimum age to a level that is consistent with young people's complete physical and mental development. It specifies 15 as the universal minimum age for employment.

The goal of ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age (C138) is to effectively abolish child labour, which is defined as employment that endangers children's health, safety, or morality interferes with compulsory schooling, or for which they are just too young. C138 mandates those countries: (a) set a minimum age for entrance into work or employment¹; and (b) develop national programs to eliminate child labour (ILO, 2018).

According to ILO C138, not all work done by children below the age of 18 should be eliminated from child labour. C138, therefore, allows countries to permit children in light works. This is because some of the works that children do can help develop their

personality and also the future success of their household. C138 also allows hazardous work only if it does not affect the health, and morals of the child. The performance of household chores is not also prohibited under C138 if only it does not influence the education of the child (ILO, 2018).

2.6.4.2 ILO Convention No. 182 on the WFCL

The Governing Body of the International Labour Office convened the 87th Session of the International Labour Office on 1 June 1999 to establish new tools for the prohibition and abolition of child labour's most heinous forms. In article 1, the convention states that as a matter of urgency, each member that ratifies this Convention must adopt urgent and effective steps to ensure the ban and eradication of the worst forms of child labour. The convention defines a child as people under the age of 18.

Article 3 of the convention, refers to a worse form of labour as (a) 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; (b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or pornographic performances; (c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; (d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. In article 6 of the convention, each member state is to design and implement programmes of action to eliminate as a priority the worst forms of child labour.

In article 7 of the convention, each member state is to take into account the importance of education in eliminating child labour, and take effective and time-bound measures to (a) prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labour; (b) provide the necessary and appropriate direct assistance for the removal of children from the worst forms of child labour and their rehabilitation and social integration; (c) ensure access to free basic education, and, wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training, for all children removed from the worst forms of child labour; (d) identify and reach out to children at special risk, and (e) take account of the special situation of girls. Ghana ratified this convention on 13th June 2000.

2.6.4.3 African charter on the rights and welfare of the child

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, at its Sixteenth Ordinary Session in Monrovia, Liberia, from July 17 to 20, 1979, adopted the Declaration on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (AHG/ST.4 Rev. 1), which recognized the need to take appropriate measures to promote and protect the rights and welfare of the African Child. In article 1 of the charter, member states are to recognize the right and freedom enshrined in the charter. They are to discourage any tradition, culture, custom or religious practice that is inconsistent with the rights, duties and obligations enshrined in the charter.

The charter describes a child in article 2 as any human being below the age of 18. It continues in article 3 that regardless of the child's or his or her parents' or legal guardians' race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or another opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or another status, every child has the right to enjoy the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in this Charter. Furthermore, article 4 of the charter states that the best interests of the child must be

the priority in all acts involving the child done by any person or authority. In addition, in all judicial or administrative proceedings involving a child who is capable of communicating his or her views, the child's views must be heard either directly or through an impartial representative as a party to the proceedings, and those views must be taken into account by the relevant authority by applicable law.

The inherent right to life of the child is recognised in article 5 of the charter. It demands the full protection, survival and development of the child. Again, in the same article, the charter warns of the pronouncement of a death sentence for the crime committed by the child.

In articles 9 and 10, the freedom of the child is recognised. It also states that no child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful intrusions into his privacy, family home, communications, or attacks on his honour or reputation, so long as his parents or legal guardians have the right to exercise reasonable supervision over their children's behaviour. The child has a legal right to be protected from such interference or attacks.

The educational right of the child is also enshrined in article 11. It opined that every child shall have the right to education and that education of the child shall be directed to: (a) the promotion and development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential; (b) fostering respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms with particular reference to those set out in the provisions of various African instruments on human and peoples' rights and international human rights declarations and conventions; (c) the preservation and strengthening of positive African morals, traditional values and cultures; (d) the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, tolerance, dialogue,

mutual respect and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, tribal and religious groups; (e) the preservation of national independence and territorial integrity; (f) the promotion and achievement of African Unity and Solidarity; (g) the development of respect for the environment and natural resources; (h) the promotion of the child's understanding of primary health care.

The charter also recognised the leisure and cultural activities of the child in article 12. It stipulated that state parties must acknowledge a child's right to rest and leisure, to engage in age-appropriate play and recreational activities, and to freely participate in cultural life and the arts. Also, state parties were asked to protect and promote a child's right to fully engage in cultural and artistic life, as well as facilitate the provision of suitable and equitable opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational, and leisure activities.

Article 14 of the African charter on the rights and welfare of the child has enshrined the health right of the child. The state parties are to ensure adequate and proper health care for all children with an emphasis on primary health care. Nutrition and safe drinking water must also be ensured to combat malnutrition.

In article 15, the charter states that every child must be safeguarded from all types of economic exploitation, as well as from performing any labour that is potentially detrimental to the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. State parties are to provide minimum wages for admission to employment, regulation hours and condition of employment and are to provide information on the hazards of child labour.

The charter also stresses parental care and responsibility in articles 19 and 20. It demands the state parties ensure that children enjoy parental care and protection. On June 10, 2005, Ghana approved the Charter.

2.6.4.4 Acts of Parliament of Ghana

In Ghana, the right of children to be safeguarded from labour that jeopardizes their development is guaranteed under the Constitution of 1992. The Children's Act of 1998 (Act 560), the Human Trafficking Act of 2005 (Act 694), the Domestic Violence Act of 2007 (732), the Criminal Code of 1960 (Act 29), and the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, are among the laws that have been passed (NPA2, 2017-2021).

2.6.4.5 Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560)

A child is defined as someone under the age of 18 under Section 1 of the children's Act 560. Section 87 makes it illegal for minors to engage in exploitative labour (defined as activity that deprives a kid of their health, education, development or dangerous job) defined in Section 91 as labour which poses a danger to the health, safety or morals of a person. In addition, Section 88 prevents children from working at night, while sections 89 and 90 established the minimum age for employment at 15 years and 13 years, respectively. Furthermore, section 98 of the Children's Act established a minimum age of fifteen years or completion of basic education for a child to begin an apprenticeship with a craftsman. Sections 99 and 100 discussed how a child serving as an apprentice should be cared for through a contract between the artisan and the child's parents.

In addition to Act 560, the Child Rights Regulations instrument (LI 1705) (Government of the Republic of Ghana 2002), the Juvenile Justice Act (2003a), the Human Trafficking Act (Act 694) (2005), the Labour Act (Act 651) (2003b), Labour Regulations instrument (LI 1833) (2007), and the Education Act (Act 778) are all national laws that address prohibited child labour (2008) (Forest Trends, 2020).

2.6.4.6 Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694)

The Human Trafficking Act of 2005 (Act 694), sections 1-2 make it illegal to recruit, abduct, transport, transfer, harbour, trade, or receive people, both within and across borders, using threats, fraud, or exploitation of vulnerability to gain consent, as well as induced prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude or organ removal. When a child is trafficked, section 4 of the statute emphasised that parental or guardian assent cannot be used as proof. The statute also allows anybody with information regarding child trafficking to report it to the police or other security services, including where the victim and criminal life are, where the incident occurred, and where the victim is temporarily residing. The Act also covers the rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration of those who have been trafficked. The Act establishes a fund whose revenues will be used to give basic help to victims of human trafficking, including identifying their relatives, providing skills and training to such victims, and training for those involved in rescue operations.

2.6.4.7 Juvenile Justice Act, 2003 (Act 653)

The juvenile act establishes a juvenile justice system, protects juvenile rights, ensures a suitable and personalized response to juvenile offenders, and provides for young offenders, among other things. In section one, the act defines a juvenile as a person below eighteen who conflicts with the law. It stipulates that a juvenile must be treated

differently than an adult, save in certain limited conditions set out in the Act. Section three also dealt with the rights of the juvenile which stipulate that a juvenile shall have the right to privacy during arrest and also discourages publication that will lead to the identification of that juvenile during the arrest.

2.6.4.8 Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732)

The Domestic Act of 2007 is another law that protects people from domestic abuse (Act732). Physical abuse, assault, deprivation of food, clothes, and any other inhuman treatment, such as sexual abuse, economic abuse, and emotional and psychological abuse, are all criminal offences under section one of this act. Section six of the act also allows an individual to report any form of domestic violence to the police. A child is also permitted to be assisted by the next friend to report any issue of domestic violence to the police. Also, section 18 of the act stipulates that the court shall protect any child victim of domestic violence in a Family Tribunal.

2. 6. 5 Child labour policies and actions plans/strategies by the government of Ghana

2.6.5.1 National Social Protection Policy, 2015

The national social protection policy of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social protection came about due to the consistency of African Union (AU) countries to pursue a comprehensive social protection programme as in the AU social protection framework.

The National Social Protection Policy of 2015 defines social protection for Ghana as s “a range of actions carried out by the state and other parties in response to vulnerability and poverty, which seek to guarantee relief for those sections of the population who for any reason are not able to provide for themselves”. The National

Social Protection Policy establishes a framework for delivering social protection in a comprehensive and targeted manner that is cohesive, effective, and efficient. The policy is divided into five (5) sections. The policy's first chapter includes an overview of the policy's origins and development process. The second chapter includes background information about the nation. The policy-emphasised direction, as well as priority areas, policy measures, and tactics, are examined in the third and fourth chapters. The last chapter discusses policy implementation and coordinating institutional systems. It specifies stakeholder roles and responsibilities, as well as monitoring and evaluation, policy review, finance, sustainability analysis, capacity-building, and communication and advocacy. According to the policy, Ghana's social protection floor aims to cover all aspects of life, close social protection gaps, and strike a strategic balance between social assistance, social security, and productive inclusion. The Ghanaian social protection floor will be comprised of the following: Access to basic essential health care for all, minimum income security to access the basic needs of life for children, minimum income security for people of working age and minimum income security for older persons.

The policy also tries to look at the inequality in healthcare, and education among children in rural and urban centres. It saw the poverty level of some parts of the country as a problem that needs urgent attention. It saw that there has been a great inequality in the country where some children from poor homes are exposed to poor healthcare, education and sanitation. The policy looks at the poverty level in rural areas making children in the areas have little or no access to education and healthcare.

The objective of the policy is to establish well-coordinated efforts of social protection policy for all Ghanaians. This is to promote the well-being and dignity of all Ghanaians through a social protection system. The policy is to close the inequality gap and create a more sustainable life among the citizens of Ghana.

2.6.5.2 Justice for Children Policy, 2015

This policy aims to create a well-structured and coordinated juvenile justice system that promotes children's well-being, avoids violence, exploitation, and abuse, protects children from damage, and promotes juvenile justice. Both criminal and civil proceedings are covered under the policy. To ensure that the judicial system fits the Ghanaian setting, the policy statement is influenced by globally recognized principles and current legislation, as well as Ghanaian values, beliefs, and traditions, particularly those outlined in the Child and Family Welfare Policy. The goal of this policy is to create a unified system by offering guidelines on how to modify juvenile justice programs and activities (Forest Trends, 2020).

The Justice for Children Policy, 2015, is to foster more collaboration between the formal and community justice systems so that they can operate together as a unified national system that guarantees children access to justice. The policy was also created to maximize and utilize existing resources and capacities to find viable and long-term solutions for a successful justice for children system. The policy's goals are to prevent juvenile delinquency; strengthen rehabilitation and social reintegration programs; connect formal and community judicial systems to improve access to justice and protection for children who have run afoul of the law; children who are witnesses or victims of crimes should be protected; ensure that minors engaged in family and other legal actions are protected; assist in the reform of laws, policies, and processes to

improve children's access to justice to inform essential regulatory changes and produce recommendations for dealing with cases involving children at all levels; ensure that financial and human resources are available to carry out the policy.

According to the Justice for children 2015 policy guidelines: “no child shall be treated differently or discriminated against on the grounds of race, gender, sex, ethnicity, religion, disability, health status, custom, rural or urban background, the status of his or her parents or legal guardians, birth or any other status, status as a refugee, socio-economic status or his or her geographic location.” In article 28 of the constitution and section 2 of the Children’s Act, the best interest of the child is paramount in all issues affecting children. Concerning child custody, maintenance, adoption as well as a child in contact with the law, the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration by a court, person, institution, or any other body in a matter concerned with a child. When dealing with children in conflict with the law, the best interests of that child must be balanced with the interests of the victim and the need for community harmony and safety.

The administration of the Justice for Children Policy must be guided by the principle of protecting the child’s right to dignity and privacy and must be reflected in all actions within the formal justice for children system as well as the community justice for children system. Children have the right to a fair trial within the formal and community justice for children’s systems and the rules of natural justice must apply. Children must also be given the resources to enable them to defend themselves effectively in any forum they are taken to for a hearing on matters relating to them.

Also, children have the right to special legal protection as well as opportunities and facilities by law and other means for healthy and normal physical, mental, moral, spiritual and social development in conditions of freedom and dignity. Children shall also be protected against neglect, cruelty and exploitation, trafficking, labour and discrimination. Furthermore, children shall be provided with the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child either directly, or through a representative or appropriate body, in a manner consistent with procedural rules of law. In all actions concerning children whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, social support services to children shall be of primary consideration.

2.7 Theoretical Framework

Stokes (2007) defined theories as tools to help us think and we need to find a theoretical paradigm which will be useful and help us to investigate our chosen object of analysis.

This research is guided by the Risk Theory and the Luxury Axiom theory by Basu and Van. These theories were chosen because of the practicability to the study. The risk theory explains the identification and assessment of potential hazards and dangers that children may face when engaged in domestic labour or household work. Luxury Axiom theory explains a situation where because of a drop in a family income, parents may send their children into child domestic labour just to increase the household income.

2.7.1 Luxury Axiom theory

The luxury axiom was defined by Basu and Van (1998) as the circumstance in which a family's income becomes extremely low and they only send their child to work in order to supplement the family income. The luxury axiom may alternatively be defined as a circumstance in which the family's income from non-child labour is insufficient to cover daily maintenance of the home and child labour is thus required to supplement the family's revenue for daily subsistence (ILO, 2007 cited in Ihejieta, Chinyere, 2020). According to Basu and Van (1998) cited in Ihejieta, Chinyere, (2020), children who labour do so in order to supplement the income of their households by working toward a specific goal. The difference between the money required to support the family and the income obtained without using child labour would be this goal income. Lindert (1976) cited in Nwamaka (2014) holds a similar viewpoint. He believes that most children work to guarantee their families and their survival. This claim is backed by Fatusi et al. (2002) cited in Nwamaka (2014) that financial troubles compel some parents and guardians to sell, trade, or leave their children.

In applying the Luxury Axiom theory to the child domestic labour, poverty is now widely acknowledged as the primary driver of child labor, according to a significant body of research. The availability of high-quality education and straightforward inducements, such as free school lunches or financial aid for parents with school-age children, can help reduce child domestic labour. Parents in rich homes hardly give out their children to child domestic labour just to assist the family income. However, this is not so when it comes to poor homes where parents will engage children in domestic labour so the family can be financial status can be sustained. However, the

theory could not explain all the reasons why children are engaged in child domestic labour given the account of the objectives set for the study.

2.7.2 Risk theory

Risk theory attempts to explain why people make decisions when they are unclear about the future. The theory predicts a decision based on the distribution of possible outcomes (Danielle, 2022). Several shocks and risk factors impact poor households, such as unemployment, and natural disasters that are connected to income, such as drought and flood, war, and so on. Income shocks can occur if families do not have adequate reserve resources to deal with them. According to the risk hypothesis, these households are more inclined to support child labour if they are unable to borrow for their primary consumption requirement (Gafu, 2017). Children are sometimes involved in child labour due to the fear that the family will not be able to support their needs. The uncertainty of the future for the family pushes a lot of parents to give out their children into child labour. The parents in avoiding being ridiculed by society rely on the rich for a better life for their children.

In applying risk theory in the context of child domestic labour refers to the identification and assessment of potential hazards and dangers that children may face when engaged in domestic labour or household work. Child domestic labour, involves children performing various tasks within a household setting, such as cleaning, cooking, caring for children's siblings, or running errands. In many parts of the world, child domestic labour is a significant concern, particularly in developing countries. It often occurs due to economic hardships, lack of educational opportunities, and cultural norms that perpetuate child labour practices. Child domestic workers are exposed to a range of risks that can have adverse effects on their physical,

psychological, and social well-being. Some of the key risk factors associated with child domestic labour. Children engaged in domestic labour may be exposed to physical dangers like carrying heavy loads, using hazardous cleaning chemicals, or operating potentially dangerous household appliances. These risks can lead to accidents, injuries, and long-term health problem.

2.8 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework is the issues identified in the literature review as factors responsible for child domestic labour while as issues identified in the risk theory and Luxury Axiom theory perspective.

There are a lot of factors that lead to child domestic labour. These factors are poverty, financial problems, rural-urban migration, lack of education, cultural and religious factors and absence of parents. Also, there are a lot of negative impacts or consequences on children involved in domestic labour. These impact education, and health, and also lead to the violation of the rights of the child. In this conceptual framework, the pressure in the home in terms of poverty, large family size and lack of educational institutions in the community forced some of these children into child domestic labour. This current study was grounded on this conceptual framework. (See figure. 1).

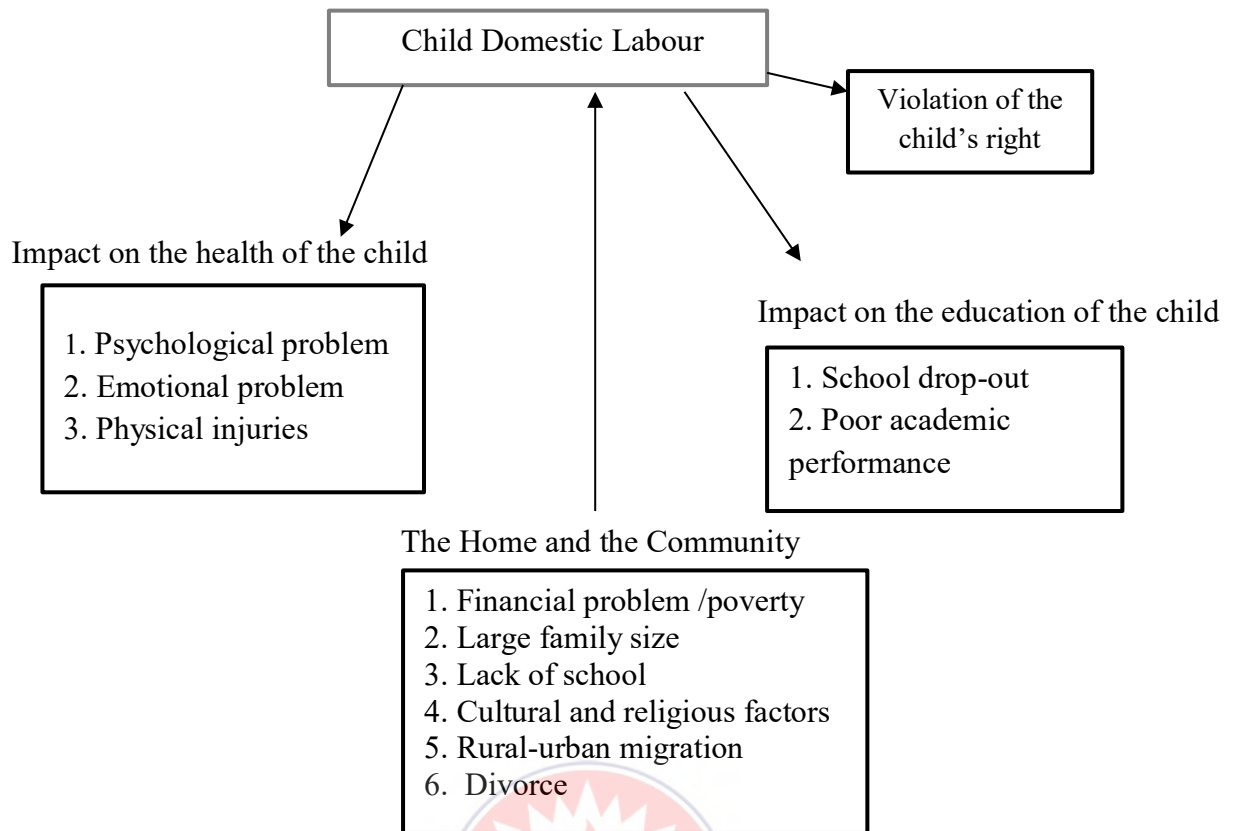


Figure 1: Conceptual framework

2.9 Chapter Summary

Chapter two reviewed relevant literature on the scope of child domestic labour, it further explained the causes of child domestic labour. Consequences of child domestic labour and how it affects the children. The chapter ends with child labour policies and legislations. The literature revealed that poverty, lack of education, rural urban migration and large family size were some of the causes of child domestic labour. On the consequences of child domestic labour, the impact on the health and education of the child were discuss and also how it violates the right of the child.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the methods and procedures used for the study. Items included are research design, the study population, sampling procedures and sample size. The chapter also describes research instruments used for data collection, analysis, procedures and data presentation.

3.1 Research Design

Trochim (2006) asserts that the research design is what holds the project together. Every research design is a strategy for gathering, organizing, and interpreting data to arrive at a specific conclusion. The study employed an exploratory research design. In the view of Streb (2010), exploratory designs are frequently used to determine how to approach an issue assessment or what approach would be most useful for gathering information about a problem. In the view of Cuthill (2002), the aims of exploratory research are to develop fresh ideas and hypotheses, familiarize the audience with the fundamentals of the problem being studied, familiarize them with the environment and concerns, and maybe give some insights. A study's feasibility may be ascertained and preliminary ideas or hypotheses can be developed with the use of an exploratory design. The study's scope is restricted to Kpando Torkor. Although research on child labour was conducted in the Torkor community, it was not centred on child domestic labour but rather on the field of fishing, hence the exploratory design was suited for this study. Therefore, the researcher has a new perspective on this subject. Also, this study, therefore, employed the exploratory design because the design enabled the

researcher to explore and examine the in-depth experiences of children employed in domestic labour.

The researcher used the qualitative approach. The qualitative approach gives a unique depth of understanding. Respondents can freely disclose their experiences, thoughts and feelings without constraint. Qualitative research takes place in the socio-cultural context of participants (Kusi, 2012). Investigating participants' perspectives on a specific social issue is known as qualitative research. It frequently comprises conversations or interviews that produce non-numerical outcomes. Statistics (quantitative research) does not give a comprehensive picture if a researcher wants to understand a person's viewpoints or ideas. Researchers can sometimes gain a deeper knowledge of why and how people perceive the research issue through conversations or talks with individuals (qualitative research) (Manu, 2018 cited in Tümen-Akyldz, 2021). It involves an interaction between the researcher and the researched. It is designed to enable the researcher to understand people and the socio-cultural context within which they live. In such a qualitative study, data are collected in the form of words rather than numbers and reflect the experiences, feelings or judgments of individuals taking part in an investigation of the problem or issue, whether as subjects or as observers of the scene (Verma & Mallick, 1999)

3.2 Study Area

Kpando Municipal District is one of the eighteen districts in the Volta Region of Ghana created as an ordinary district assembly on 10th March 1989 when it was known as Kpando District until the southern part of the district was split off by a decree of President John Agyekum Kuffuor on August 19, 2004. This is to create South Dayi District; thus, the remaining part has been retained as Kpando

District. However, on 28th June 2012, the southern part of the district was later split off to create North Dayi District on 28th June 2012; while the remaining part was elevated to Municipal District assembly status in the same year to become Kpando Municipal District. The municipality is located in the western part of the Volta Region and has Kpando Gabi, Aloe and Tsakpe as its capital town.

Kpando, the Municipal District is about 70 km from Ho, the regional capital. The location of the Municipality places it in a strategic position with the potential for fast economic growth and development. The Municipality lies within Latitudes $6^{\circ} 20' N$ and $7^{\circ} 05' N$, and Longitude $0^{\circ} 17' E$. The Volta Lake, which stretches over 80 km of the coastal line, demarcates the western boundary. The Kpando Municipality shares boundaries with Biakoye District in the North, Afajato South District to the East and North Dayi District in the South. The district is made up of twenty communities. It has three senior high schools and one tertiary institution. The community is made up of public sector and self-employed workers. The study was conducted in some selected communities in the Municipality.

The population of the Municipality according to the 2010 Population and Housing Census stands at 53,736 with 25,904 males and 27,832 females. Kpando Municipal District is one of the oldest districts in the Volta Region of Ghana. It spans into the current Oti Region.

Kpando Torkor is a fishing community along Lake Volta. It also served as a point to cross the Lake Volta to Afram Plains and other nearby villages using outboard motor-powered boats or the government ferry.

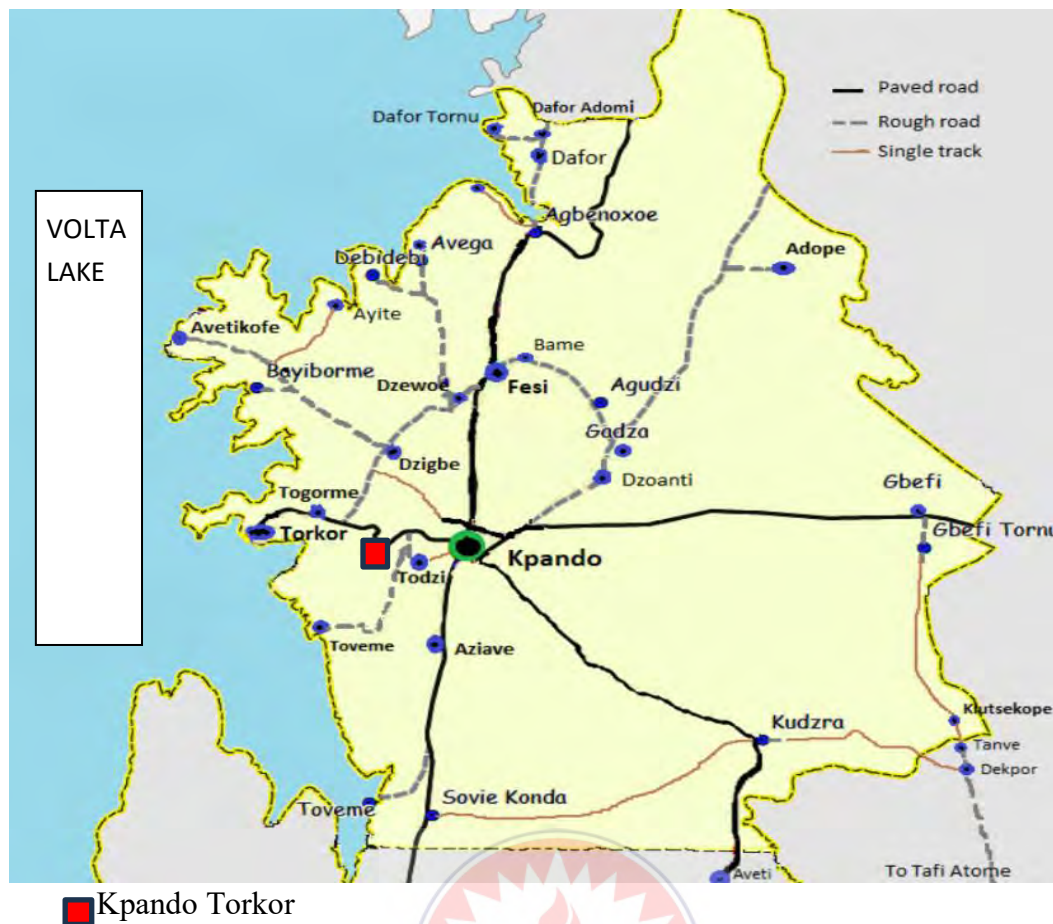


Figure 2: Map of Kpando Municipality

Source: Volta Guide at <http://infokpando.blogspot.com/p/tourism.html>

3.3 Population of the Study

The population under study included those involved in the problem under study; that is, children employed in domestic labour, employers of child domestic labour, selected community elders, parents, the Municipal Chief Executive and the director of Social Welfare in the Kpando Municipality.

3.4 Sample

Saumure and Given (2008) assert that a qualitative study should have a sample size between six and thirty. Mark (2010) asserts that samples for qualitative studies are generally much smaller than those used in quantitative studies. Onwuegbuzie and Leech (2007) assert that sample sizes in qualitative research should not be too large as

it may be difficult for the researcher to extract thick and rich data. Marshall (1996) affirms that an appropriate sample size for a qualitative study is one that adequately answers the research question. In this study, the researcher used a total sample size of 19 participants. Six children aged 10-14 because of the difficulty in locating child domestic labours in the community. This is because many of the employers were not willing to allow their child domestic employees to be interviewed. Also, five employers of child domestic labourers, six community elders, the Municipal Chief Executive and the Director for Social Welfare in the Kpando Municipality. This is because this sample size will be easy to manage during data analysis since the study will be qualitative.

3.5 Sampling Procedure

Sampling is a technique or procedure used to pick a subset of a population to participate in the study. This study employed the non-probability sampling approach. According to Creswell (2018), non-probability sampling is best used when the goal of the research is to provide in-depth explanations of what people's thoughts and feelings are towards a phenomenon.

Purposive sampling was used to select participants for this study. In this sampling approach, researchers deliberately choose particular areas to discover or comprehend the primary phenomena. Whether participants and places are equipped with information is the criterion utilized in picking them (Creswell 1998). The researcher chose purposive sampling because the community best suited to helping the researcher answer the research questions. Also, the respondent fit the profile of the people that was needed to reach. In this instance, the researchers chose a certain population because they have meaningful information for the study.

Also, Snowball sampling was employed as a backup to purposive sampling because of the nature of the problem under study. Bryman (2008) opines that the snowball sampling strategy entails the researcher making initial contact with a limited number of people who are pertinent to the study topic before using these to make contact with more subjects.

3.6 Data Collection Instruments

The data collection method included a semi-structured interview and focus group discussion. Kvale (1996) asserts that qualitative research interviews enable researchers to understand something from the subjects' point of view and to uncover the meaning of their experiences. Interviews also allow people to convey to others a situation from their perspective and in their own words. When you just have one chance to interview someone and you'll be sending numerous interviewers out into the field to collect data, semi-structured interviewing is the ideal option (Bernard, 1988 cited in Cohen et al., 2006).

Focus groups are preferred over individual interviews when there is little time for data gathering (Vanderstoep and Johnston, 2009 quoted in Tümen-Akyldz, 2021). Focus group discussion is frequently used as a qualitative approach to gain an in-depth understanding of social issues. The method aims to obtain data from a purposely selected group of individuals rather than from a statistically representative sample of a broader population. The researcher chose six (6) community elders comprising three (3) women and four (4) men from the community under study as participants for the focus group discussion. The researcher used two days in holding discussion with the participant. Each participant was allowed to answer question by raising up the hand.

3.7 Data Analysis

A digital audio was used to record the interview. Twelve interviews that were recorded in Ewe were transcribed and translated verbatim into English. The transcription of the interview was done immediately after data collection for the day. Conducting the interviews, transcribing and translating them brought the researcher closer to the data. The researcher became conversant with the responses from the participants on the prevalence of child domestic labour in the community, making it possible to identify key issues as well as the differences and similarities in the accounts. The themes were done manually. Developing the themes manually helped the researcher to delve much more into the data and become more familiar with the emerging themes. The researcher later adopted Brauan and Clark's (2006) thematic data analysis. According to Kusi (2012), thematic analysis is an analytical strategy that requires the researcher to organize or prepare the data; immerse himself or herself in, and transcribe the data, generate themes, code the data and describe them. The transcription involved long hours and days of listening attentively to the tape, to hear and understand what transpired, as well as write down all that was said. As such the researcher immersed himself in reading and collating of the information according to themes and interpreted and analyzed the results in line with the findings.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Ethical issues such as informed consent, confidentiality and consequences for the interviewee were taken into account in this qualitative interview. In this study, ethical issues were considered when carrying out the study as all the research participants were informed about the purpose and features of the research. Informed consent was obtained from individual children and their employers/guardians in writing in the local language which the research participants understood better. The researcher also

ensured that confidentiality and anonymity were employed in which the information collected was strictly used for research purposes. More so, the identities of children, parents and key informants were not disclosed.



CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter contains a report on the study's findings. The chapter opens with a summary of the data on the prevalence of child domestic labour as well as the demographics of the children, parents, community members, Municipal Chief Executive and the Director of Social Welfare who participated in the case study. Five phases were involved in the analysis of the respondents. The six children that were questioned made up the first phase. The second phase addresses five employers of domestic child employees. The Municipal Chief Executive is the subject of the third stage. The Director of Social Welfare is the subject of the fourth. A last step is a focus group discussion with selected local elders.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Six children in all were used as a sample for the study, with boys outnumbering girls by a large margin. Furthermore, the majority of survey participants said their ages ranged from 9 to 15 years old. At the time of the survey, most of the five employers of child domestic labour were traders and fishermen. Six community elders between the ages of 45 and 60 were chosen for the focus group discussion. The survey also included the Municipal Chief Executive and the Director of Social Welfare for Kpando Municipal.

4.2 RQ 1: What is the knowledge level of the people on child domestic labour?

4.2.1 Analysis of the Responses from the Child Domestic Labourers at Kpando

Torkor

In this part, the interview replies of child domestic labourers are analyzed. It addressed the topics of measuring the amount of community knowledge on child domestic labour, evaluating the experiences of children engaged in child domestic work, figuring out why children are engaged in child domestic work, and evaluating the impact of child domestic work on children's development.

Child domestic labour is defined as domestic labour done by children under the legal minimum age of employment as well as by children who are older than the legal minimum age of employment but under the age of eighteen, under risky or other exploitative circumstances (IPEC, 2007). It is imperative that kids are informed about local child domestic labour. The children benefit from having solid information to challenge any attempt by their parents or guardians to take advantage of them. Additionally, it will increase the child's awareness of their rights.

Based on some of the experiences the children narrated during the interview that they go through in their employers' homes like staying awake to smoke fish, salting of fish and other house chores that take their learning time, the researcher decided to find from the children who were into child domestic labour if they can explain what is meant by child domestic labour. I learnt that the majority of them really had a different conception of child domestic labour. Some of the children think that 'child domestic labour' refers to situations when a child stays with someone else. One of the attendees said, *"Is when one stays with somebody"* (R1). Another respondent said, *"I*

do not understand it. But when you are staying with somebody then you are a child domestic labourer” (R2).

According to the above statement, it is clear from the study that some children do not understand child domestic labour. Some simply view it as living with someone other than their true parents. To continue, some of the children also regard child domestic labour as a situation in which a child who is an orphan stays with another person. One of the participants stated, *“Is when someone who has nobody goes to stay with another person” (R4).*

As seen in the above response, some children perceive child domestic work to be a circumstance in which a child without parents stays with a stranger. This demonstrates how the children utilize their current circumstances to define child domestic labour.

Furthermore, a child thinks that child domestic labour is when a child goes to stay with another person to render services to that person.

One of the respondents said:

“To my mind, there is child domestic labour when you stay with someone, not your parent or relation, work for him or help him to work and you are not paid anything. Food is given to you, does all. Sometimes you work from morning till evening.” (R5).

From the response above, it is clear from the study that some of the children regard child domestic labour as staying and helping another person. Another child when asked regards child domestic labour as a situation where a child stays with another

person for help. One of the respondents said, *“Is when one stays with another person for help”* (R6).

From the above responses, it is evident from the study that many of the children regard child domestic labour as a child staying with another person for help. When asked whether child domestic labour is prevalent in the community, all the children agreed that the menace is prevalent in the community.

4.2.2 Analysis of responses from the guardians/employers of child domestic labourers at Kpando Torkor

In this part, the interview replies of guardians and employers of child domestic workers are analyzed. It addressed the topics of the knowledge of child domestic employers on child domestic labour, evaluating the experiences of children whom they engaged in domestic work, figuring out why they engage the children in domestic work, and evaluating the effects of child domestic work on children's development.

Varied people have different meanings of what is meant by "child domestic labour." Some of the respondents regard it as where a child stays with another person. One of the responders stated, *“Is when a person stays with another person but not his or her biological parents”* (R2). Another one said, *“Is when somebody leaves and stays with another person. When I have my children and they work for me in the home, what is wrong?”* (R3).

However, other respondents see it as a situation where a parent is unable to care for a child and decides to send the child to stay with another person. Below are selected responses from the respondents:

It means your parents gave birth to you but cannot take care of you and decided to take you to another person for you to be taken care of (R1) ... It is when a child stays with another person for proper care (R2) ... Is when a child stays with another person because the parents cannot take care of him or her (R2).

From the responses above, it is evident from the study that many employers of child domestic workers have different knowledge about what is meant by child domestic labour.

4.2.3 Responses from a focus group discussion held with selected community members

A focus group discussion with a few chosen community members was held following an interview with the guardians/employers of child domestic labour and the children who were engaged in child domestic labour. Six people were chosen, including two women and four men. Each participant had an opportunity to respond to each of the questions being raised. This activity was carried out to learn more thoroughly about the concerns raised in the interview with the guardians and employers of child domestic workers.

Child domestic labour is a canker in today's society. Every neighbourhood must be informed of the threat, which is crucial. It is hardly surprising that many communities have a different explanation of child domestic labour. When discussing what is meant by child domestic labour. According to some of the respondents, child domestic labour refers to situations in which a child stays with another person in order to assist that person. One of the respondents said, *"It is when a child comes to stay with another person for a reward"* (R1). Another respondent said, *"It is when the child stays with you"* (R2).

However, some of the respondents think that it is when a child stays with another person for a reward. One of the respondents said, *“is when a child comes to stay with another person for a reward”* (R3). Also, one of the respondents also thinks that child domestic labour is about enslaving a child. One of them has this to say, *“It is when a child becomes a slave to another person and is mandated to do everything that the master will say”* (R4).

Some of the respondents also regard child domestic labour as a situation where a poor parent allows his or her child to stay with another person. One of the respondents said, *“It is when a child whose parents are poor leaves and stays with another person for help”* (R5). Another respondent regards child domestic labour as a situation where a child is borrowed from a parent to work for another person. One of the respondents said, *“It is when a child is borrowed from the parents to work for another person”* (R6).

According to the answers given above, it is clear from the survey that community members’ understanding of child domestic labour is all about a child staying with another person to either help or be helped by that person. All the respondents believe that it is because of the poverty of the parents of the child. This demonstrates how little the community members understand child domestic labour without considering the age of the child.

4.2.4 Analysis of responses from the Municipal Director of Social Welfare,

Kpando

In this part, the interview replies of the Municipal Director of Social Welfare are analyzed. It addressed the topics of the knowledge of child domestic employers on child domestic labour, evaluating the experiences of children, whom they engaged in

domestic work, figuring out why they engage the children in domestic work, and evaluating the impact of child domestic work on children's development.

It is crucial that organizations in charge of the social safety of children have a clear understanding of what child domestic labour entails. The Social Welfare Department had varying opinions on what child domestic labour actually included, despite the fact that various people have varied perspectives of it. The Director of Social Welfare was questioned about his perception of child domestic labour throughout the interview. He answered, *“It is a situation where domestic work is performed by children below the relevant minimum age for light work. He gave an example of a ten year old girl selling ‘koko’ for the mother and was always very late to school.”*

From the forgoing responses, it is evident that there is fair knowledge of child domestic labour. He was further asked whether child domestic labour is prevalent in the Kpando Municipality, and he responded, “Yes.”

4.2.5 Analysis of responses from the Municipal Chief Executive, Kpando

This section analyzes responses from the Municipal Chief Executive of Kpando during the interview. It covered issues such as the knowledge of child domestic employers regarding child domestic labour, assessing the experiences of children, whom they hired to perform domestic work, determining the motivations behind hiring the kids, and assessing the effects of child domestic work on kids' development.

The researcher questioned the Municipal Chief Executive about his awareness of child labour in the home. Here is his reply: *“It is a situation where children of school going age leave the classroom to engage in a paid job to support their family.”* From this response, it is evident that the Municipal Chief Executive has a fair knowledge of

child domestic labour. He was further asked if child domestic labour exists in the Municipality. He responded, “Yes.”

4.3 RQ 2: What is the experience of Children involved in Child Domestic Labour?

4.3.1 Analysis of the responses from the child domestic labourers at Kpando

Torkor

The researcher learnt during the interview with the children who were involved in child domestic labour that each of them is given four to six tasks to perform in a day. When asked the type of house chores they performed, all of them mentioned sweeping the compound, smoking of fish through the night, salting of fish, fetching water for the household, cooking food for the family and fetching firewood. Selected responses from the respondents are presented below:

I sweep the house, fetch water from the river, cook and fetch firewood. I also help in salting the fish sometimes (R1) ... I clean the toilet, wash the dishes and cloths, sweep the compound and fetch water from the river (R2) I wash the dishes and cloths, fetch firewood, fetch water and sweep the compound (R3) ... I do all the house chores. This includes washing dishes and cloths, fetching firewood, cooking, sweeping the compound, fetching water from the lagoon and smoking and salting of the fish. I also help her on market days in transporting the fish to the market. (R4) ... I take care of the compound. I fetch water from the river and fill the water container every morning. I smoke and sell fish during market days in the market (R5).

According to the survey, the comments above clearly demonstrate that many of these domestic children are overburdened with a variety of housework.

To continue, children who work as domestic help experience a variety of things as well. While others suffered abuse, these teenage domestic employees did not have enough time to unwind before the next day. This is as a result of the numerous duties they completed at home. During my interview with the children on their experiences as child domestic workers, many of them came out with their experiences. Below are some of the responses from the respondents:

I do not sleep and rest well before the next day (R1) Sometimes I sleep late and wake up early to fetch water from the river (R2) ... I hardly sleep well in the night because we smoke fish every night” (R4) ... I stay deep in the night smoking fish but will wake up and still go to school late” (R6) ... I sleep late in the night” (R3).

Some of these children are also required to walk long distances to school. This is due to the fact that they are not sent to private schools that are close to their town, but rather to public schools that are located outside of it. Among the replies, one said, “...I walk long distances to school and it makes me tired even sleep at school” (R1). Also, some of the children mentioned that they normally eat before going to school. They explained that they do not take feeding fees before going to school. One of the respondents said, “... I have to eat in the house before going to school and this does not make me get satisfied enough since I don't buy food at school. Usually, there is no lunch.” (R1). Other children normally run to the house during the break to eat before the next lesson starts. One of the respondents said, “I always come to the house during break hours to eat before going back to school” (R2). Furthermore, some of the children smoke fish deep in the night and the smoke enters their eyes.

One of the respondents said:

..smoke enters my eyes and tears flow down. Sometimes, my grandmother will not exercise patience but hit me on the head when I commit a small mistake. She will insult my father and mother and call them names. I cry and felt sad (R2).

Another respondent also said, “... sometimes the smoke enters my eyes whilst trying to turn the fish” (R3). Another child complained that he does all the house chores in the house: “... I do every house chore in the house.” (R4) Some also narrated that they got insulted when they could not finish a task in time: “.... I got insulted when I could not finish a task in time. My madam slapped me when I slept whilst smoking the fish” (R5).

It is evident from the aforementioned comments that some of these domestic child labourers face a variety of challenging circumstances. The children's life experiences impede their ability to develop personally. Some of these experiences also make the children become low achievers in the future.

4.3.2 Analysis of responses from the guardians/employers of child domestic labourers at Kpando Torkor

The employers of child domestic workers routinely assigned them to a variety of hazardous chores. Children perform a variety of tasks that are inappropriate for them to perform at their age. When questioned about the kinds of tasks they provide the children, the respondents were reluctant to answer. Below are selected responses from the respondents:

“They do house chores like sweeping the house, washing the dishes and fetching of water.”(PR1) “He sweeps the compound, fetches water

and firewood.”(PR2) “ He takes care of the house like sweeping, fetching water, cooking. In fact, he does everything in the house since he is the only child staying with me. He also helps me sometimes when am smoking fish.” (R3) “Oh! Just house chores and sometimes he helps me smoke fish but that is not always.”(R4)

From the responses above, it shows clearly from the study that child domestic labourers were involved in house chores. Some of these house chores are too much for a child to perform considering their age.

4.3.3 Responses from a focus group discussion held with selected community members

There are many unpleasant and unhealthy situations that many of the children who work as domestic helpers must endure. Some of them experience emotional and psychological instability as a result of their everyday lives. These themes emerged as comments from the chosen community members when the group was questioned about some of the circumstances or events that these children went through. Hard labour, physical abuse, mental difficulties, lack of access to education, and health issues were some of the experiences the group listed as what the kids go through.

4.3.3.1 Exposure to hard labour

Many of the children involved in child domestic labour engage in activities that are difficult. Article 32 of the International Labour Organization's Minimum Age Convention of 1973 (C138) recognizes the need to protect children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous, interfere with the child's education, or be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. These activities they perform in their homes are sometimes not equal to their strength. One of the respondents said:

“Sometimes, the children carry heavy containers to fetch water. This workload becomes too much for them and they suffer a lot. The work the children do at their masters or mistress’s place cannot be given to them when they are with their parents.” (R1)

From the response above, one can conclude that some child domestic labourers are engaged in tasks beyond their age and strength. It shows that many of these children are being exploited by their employers.

4.3.3.2 Exposure to physical abuse

Child domestic labourers also go through physical abuse. A study by the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS6), found that out of 804,474 work-related injuries affecting children aged 5 to 17, 73.1 per cent (about 588,070) occurred as a result of child labour. The study also detailed the types of assault and abuse children were subjected to. During the discussion with the selected community members, one of the respondents said:

“Sometimes, because the masters knew that they will have to pay the parents of the child domestic workers monthly, they use them to their satisfaction. When the children become lazy too, they slap, hit, and ask them to carry blocks in their palm whilst they squat.” (R3)

From the responses above, it is clear from the study that children who are involved in child domestic labour go through physical abuse. They are given a task that is too difficult for them to perform. They suffer physical abuse in the performance of their duties.

4.3.3.3 Lack of balanced diet

Health-related issues resulted from some of the situations that child domestic workers are subjected to. Among the replies are the following:

“Some of the children are not given any better food but gari and raw pepper” (R2).

“...because the child is not hers, she denies the child food from morning up to the evening” (R6).

From the responses above, one can conclude from the study that many children domestic labourers are not given good food. Some are also denied food when they commit an offence. They become malnourished. All these can lead to health-related issues. This is supported in by Freedom Fund and Population Council in Addis Ababa in 2021, that majority of the respondents listed neglect or malnourishment, physical aggression, verbal or emotional abuse, and sexual assault as some of the issues they experience.

4.3.3.4 Emotional problems

Many children experience emotional stress. They feel uneasy and terrified in their new houses. This is a result of the cruel treatment they received. One of the participants stated:

“I once saw a child domestic worker crying in the night when I ask him what the problem was; she told me she was sack from the house since morning because she misplaced Ghc1.00 when she went to sell for the madam. I had to give her the money to go back to the house”. (R6)

From the above responses, it is evident from the study that children who serve as domestic labourers go through emotional stress due to bad treatment from their masters/mistresses. They become unhappy and sad in their new homes.

4.3.3.5 Lack of access to school

From the discussion, I also realized that some of the children face educational challenges. Some of the children do not attend school at all. Those who have the privilege to go to school are not allowed to learn due to house chores. One of the respondents has this to say:

“Some of the children are not allowed to even attend school whilst others who are in school are not regular in school. I have such a case in my area. They are occupied with domestic activities and do not learn in the house. They either smoking or salting fish.” (R4)

From the response above, it is clear from the study that some of the children involved in domestic labour do not have access to school. They are occupied with domestic chores and have little time for themselves.

4.3.4 Analysis of responses from the Municipal Director of Social Welfare, Kpando

When asked about the activities that the children are involved in, the Director of Social Welfare said:

“The children are normally involved in the processing of fish for smoking, carrying of fish from the lakeside to the house, setting fire towards smoking of fish, processing of fish using salt, washing of bowls and other cooking utensils used in the fish process.”

From the above response, it is clear that a lot of child domestic labourers are involved in many activities that are beyond their age and strength. To continue, he was interviewed about some of the experiences the child domestic labourers go through. He stated:

“Some of them are made to smoke fish throughout the night. Also, some are not allowed to read their books at night but are engaged in house chores. The most annoying part is that some even have to carry fish from the riverside to the house and will have to prepare the fish for salting and smoking. Some don't even don't eat three times a day. It is very worrying.”

From the response above, it can, therefore, be concluded that many of these child domestic workers are taken through a lot of conditions that are not favourable to their development.

4.3.5 Analysis of responses from the Municipal Chief Executive, Kpando

Children who work as domestic helpers endure a lot of hardship. The Municipal Chief Executive was questioned about a few of the experiences the children had in their masters' and mistresses' houses throughout the interview. Here is his reply: *“Some of the children don't sleep early before the next day's task. Some are also denied food when they offend their masters or mistresses.”*

From the above response, it is evident from the study that children engaged in child domestic labour in the Kpando Municipality go through a lot of experiences. He was further asked to state some of the house chores the children are involved in. Below is his response, *“They cook, wash, fetch water and firewood, they also smoke and salt fish.”*

4.4 RQ 3: What are the Reasons for Children’s involvement in Child Domestic Labour?

4.4.1 Analysis of the responses from the child domestic labourers at Kpando

Torkor

Minors are frequently forced to perform home chores in various situations. Because of these circumstances, a lot of these children were forced to go from far places to live with their masters or mistresses. Employers of child domestic workers may make use of some of these defenses to lure the children into their homes. The reasons why the respondents became domestic servants were revealed by their responses. The following themes came up, lack of parental involvement, lack of access to education, and poverty were mentioned.

4.4.1.1 Lack of school

Some of these children involved in child domestic labour lack schools in the community in which they are. They travel to stay with people in other communities with the hope of having access to school. One of the respondents said, *“We don’t have a school in our community so my father asked me to come and attend school. My school attendance is irregular.” (R3)*

From the above response, it shows clearly from the study that many of these children who are into child domestic labour left their parents because they lack schools in their communities. They leave to communities where they can get access to school hence falling as victims to their employers.

4.4.1.2 Poverty

A number of the children work as domestic helpers since their parents cannot afford to care for their needs. During the interview with the child domestic workers, the researcher learnt that many of the children who are engaged in child domestic labour had fled their hometowns due to the financial hardship of their parents. Selected responses from the children interviewed are given below:

“Is because my parents don’t have money to send me to school, so I came here so that my madam can send me to school.” (R2). “ We are ten in number and my father is dead and my mother does not have money to take care of us. So, I was asked to come and stay with my auntie.” (R1) “My mother said she cannot take care of all of us so I should go and stay with my auntie.” (R4)

According to the answers given above, it is clear from the survey that many of the children who work as domestic helpers come from families where their parents are struggling to make ends meet. Due to the poverty and large family sizes of these parents, they easily give out their children to stay with other people and use them as domestic labourers. This assertion could be situated in the study of Hastings (2013) in evaluating the effectiveness of Domestic Child Labour Programmes in densely populated areas in Lilongwe. He found that poverty was the primary motivator of domestic child labour. A similar view is held by Fatusi et al (2002) reported in Nwamaka (2014) that some parents and guardians are forced to sell, trade, or leave their children due to financial difficulties. Lindert (1976) cited in Nwamaka (2014) holds a similar viewpoint. He believes that most children work to guarantee their families and their survival.

4.4.1.3 Lack of parental care

Some of the children who work as domestic workers lack proper care from their parents. Their employers try to lure them in by promising to treat them well. The children change their minds and leave their parents' homes to live somewhere else. One of the respondents said, *“My grandmother said our father is not taking good care of us so she brought me to stay with her”* (R5)

According to the aforementioned response, it is clear from the study that some of these children moved out of their parent's homes and into the homes of other people, either their immediate family or other family members. They are lured by the assurance that they will receive tender parental guidance from these relatives. They ultimately work as domestic servants.

4.4.2 Analysis of responses from the guardians/employers of child domestic labourers at Kpando Torkor

There are several justifications for why children engage in child domestic service. The explanations change based on what their employers want them to accomplish at home. The following themes emerged from the guardians' and employers' interviews: lack of educational resources, lack of parental care, assistance and support and poverty.

4.4.2.1 Lack of school

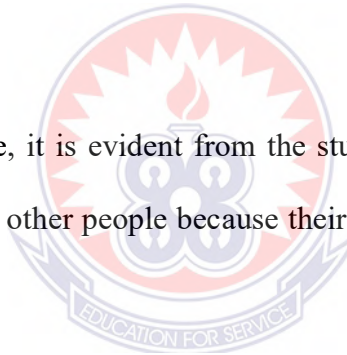
Since there were no schools, a large number of children who did domestic labour left their hometowns. They commute to nearby locations for education, working from home in the interim. One of the participants stated, *“I want him to come and attend school because there is no school where the parents are”* (R1). Another one said, *“There is no school where their parents are so they brought them to attend school here”* (R2).

According to the aforementioned comments, it is clear from the study that the absence of schools in the neighbourhood is a major factor in why many children who engage in child labour in the home have left. They are forced to live with individuals from different groups, who then engage them for domestic work.

4.4.2.2 Lack of PARENTAL CARE

Some of the children working as domestic helpers did so as a result of their parents' incapacity to care for them. Some of these children were forced to stay with other people since their parents shied away from their responsibilities. One of the participants stated, *“He was very small when he and the father came to visit me but I saw that the father was not taking care of him so I requested that he stays with me”* (R3).

From the response above, it is evident from the study that some of the children left their parents to stay with other people because their parents were unable to take good care of them.



4.4.2.3 Assistance / support

Some of the guardians and employers of minor domestic workers are overworked and in need of more assistance. Some of these children's parents send their children to work for these employers. One of the respondents said, *“I was alone and needed additional help because the workload is too much for me.” I brought her and the sister to support me in the house”* (R4).

From the above response, it is evident from the study that many of the reasons why children are involved in domestic labour are because those who engage them needed assistance and support. They, therefore, fall on these children to come and support them in their domestic chores.

4.4.2.4 Financial problem

Some of the parents of child domestic workers are impoverished and unable to meet their children's requirements. They consent to have their children live with wealthy relatives who can take care of their needs. Some employers are required to pay the parents of the children who work for them. During the interview, one of the respondents said, “...*the parents brought him to work for me for a fee. Is not free, I pay him*” (R5).

From the above response, it is evident from the study that many of the children involved in domestic labour are from poor homes. They send their children to go and work for other people for money or assistance. Similar ideas are held by Lindert (1976) referenced in the study of Nwamaka (2014) which concludes that the majority of children go into domestic labour to support their families and ensure their survival. These children are underpaid, yet their meagre salaries give their families some financial relief.

4.4.3 Responses from a focus group discussion held with selected community members

Children who engage in child domestic labour do so for a variety of reasons. These components function as either push or pull forces. The focus group discussion members' explanations of these factors were organized into such themes as assistance

or support, a lack of parental attention, large family size, lack of education and financial difficulties.

4.4.3.1 Assistance / support

Due to the necessity for extra help in their families, many children work as domestic helpers for their guardians or employers. Some employers are engaged with a lot of household duties, and since they feel overworked, they look for more help. To find children to hire as domestic helpers, they go to different areas. The researcher discovered that a large portion of the population is involved in domestic work and depends on children for sustenance. Below are selected responses from the respondents:

“Our community is fishing and farming environment. Therefore, we need additional hands to help us do our work. Somebody must cook and send food to us on the farm. Also, somebody must assist when we bring the fish to the house. So that is why child domestic work is prevalent in this community.” (R1) “There is a lot of work in the house and you alone cannot do therefore you have to employ a child domestic worker.” (R2) “ People are overburdened with their jobs and need additional hands. They go to lure parents who cannot take good care of their children.” (R6).

From the responses above, it is evident from the study that many employers of child domestic labour employed these children because they needed assistance and support in their homes. They are overburdened with their domestic work and try to look for help and support from the children.

4.4.3.2 Lack of parental care

In certain places, child domestic labour is common since the parents of these children don't take proper care of them. When the parents of such children are afterwards approached by others who assure them that they would take good care of the children, the parents agree to let the children leave with them. One of the respondents said, *“You see, some of the parents cannot take care of their children. We sometimes approach them and ask that they release them to us.”* (R1).

The response above shows clearly from the study that many children are into child domestic labour because of the inability of their parents to take proper care of them. They leave their parents to stay with other people with the hope of getting good parental care.

4.4.3.3 Financial problem/poverty

Many of the young domestic workers come from low-income families. It becomes challenging for their parents to meet their requirements. The parents permit the children to live with other people because they lack the resources to fulfil their parental duties.

One of the respondents said:

“Sometimes, some of the parents do not have money to take care of their children so if one approaches them with the request of taking care of the children, they willingly give them out.” (R3) *“Parents do not have money to send their children to school therefore they give out the children to go and help others so they can be taken to school.”* (R4)

From the responses above, it can be concluded from the study that many parents send their children into child domestic labour because of financial problems. The children are made to stay with other people whom they think are rich.

4.4.3.4 Lack of educational facility

People often view education as the catalyst for their own personal development. Everyone desires that their children have access to quality education. Unfortunately, there aren't any schools for children to attend in a lot of the areas. The parents send their children to live with other people in different villages so that they might receive an education. This is to facilitate the children's access to education. One of the respondents stated, *"They come here to attend school because most of the communities at the other bank of the river do not have school"* (R5)

From the above response, it is clear from the study that some of the children in child domestic labour left their communities to attend school in their new community. In the process, they end up becoming domestic labourers.

4.4.3.5 Large family size

The birth rate in some of the communities is high. Many parents give birth to more children hence increasing the number of children to care for. Unfortunately, many parents are unable to take good care of these children. They end up giving the children out to stay with other people. One of the respondents said, *"...some of the parents give birth to too many children. They find it difficult to care for them so if somebody comes to lure them with the intention of taking one of them, they easily give them out."* (R5).

From the response above, it is evident from the study that many parents give birth to more children than their resources can reach. These parents give out their children to stay with other people in order to relieve themselves. These children are turning into domestic labourers in their new homes.

4.4.4 Analysis of responses from the municipal director of social welfare, Kpando

Many of these children engaged in domestic work for a variety of reasons. When the Director of Social Welfare was questioned about why some of these kids were working as housecleaners, he responded:

“... they engage in this because of the ignorance of the fundamental laws that protect children, poverty and low-income level of families. Also, there is no punishment for culprits found using children as child domestic labourers. So, they see nothing wrong with it.”

The above response shows that there are numerous reasons leading to the engagement of children in domestic labour.

4.4.5 Analysis of responses from the Municipal Chief Executive, Kpando

During the interview, the Municipal Chief Executive was questioned about the causes of the children's involvement in domestic work. Here is his reply: *“Some of them have poor parents and lack parental care. Some of the villages lack schools and lastly large family sizes.”*

The response above indicated that there are numerous reasons why children are involved in domestic labour.

4.5 RQ 4: How does Child Domestic Labour affect the Development of Children?

4.5.1 Analysis of the responses from the child domestic labourers at Kpando

Torkor

The difficulties faced by some of these young domestic workers have an impact on them. They are unable to focus on their dreams due to these difficulties. Some people have lofty goals for their lives, but they give up on them. The interview revealed the following themes. Poor academic performance, health issues, physical harm, and infringement on a child's rights.

4.5.1.1 Poor academic performance

Some of the children who were interviewed with bemoan their lack of time for school work. Children who combine jobs and school perform poorly academically because they are unable to concentrate on both tasks at once.

One of the respondents said:

“...because we smoke fish deep in the night, I do not have time to do my private studies. This made me perform poorly in my exam this term” (R4). Another one said, “I don’t have access to all my educational materials like textbooks and exercise books. Because of that I don’t partake in some of the exercises in class” (R5).

From the above responses, it is clear from the study that many of the child domestic labourers do not perform well in school. This is because many of them are occupied with domestic tasks that prevented them from attaching seriousness to their academic work. This disclosure could be situated in the study of Chander (2014). He stated that some of the household work children are engaged in is time-consuming and they do not have much time left for their academic work. As a result, many of them produced bad academic work. This retards their future goal and aspiration of becoming productive people.

4.5.1.2 Health problems

During the interview, the researcher also found that some of these children were being subjected to mental and physical abuses. One of the interviewees narrated that he was mentally unstable because of the fear in him. One of the respondents' replied, *"I am not mentally stable here because I don't feel safe"* (R3).

Furthermore, child domestic labourers sometimes are maltreated and this inflicts physical injury on some of them. Some of them who were interviewed complained bitterly of physical inflicted pains. Selected responses from the respondents are presented below:

"...slapping made me not to hear in of my ears again." (R5) *"... this wound that you see is on my hand is from the dorsal fin of the tilapia. I got pieced by it and it became swollen."*(R4) *"I was lashed with a belt at my back and the metal part of the belt inflicted wound on me."* (R1) *"... I take six lashes when I don't perform a task on time. I still have the wounds on my buttocks."* (R5))

From the responses above, it is evident from the study that many of the children involved in domestic labour suffer health related problem like mental problem and physical injuries. This assertion is further situated in Emadul et al (2013) study to examine the situation of child domestic workers in Bangladesh. They concluded that child domestic workers' physical and mental development has been negatively impacted by excessive working hours and hostile situations. This assertion is further corroborated by Zimmerman et al (2021) study where they concluded that physical abuse against domestic workers in children varied from 1.7 per cent in Thailand to 71.4 per cent in Haiti. This inhibits their future dreams and aspirations.

4.5.1.3 Violation of the child's right

The denial of some of the child domestic workers' rights is most shocking. Some of the children aren't permitted to attend school, while others are denied access to food and other basic necessities. Some of the children were urged to drop out of school in order to care for a nursing mother and her infant. One of the responders stated, “... *they ask me to stay with my madam and her baby because she was operated on*” (R2).

From the response above, it is clear from the study that some of the children involved in child domestic labour are prevented from accessing education. This violates the educational rights of the child. It can also bring an end to the future dream of the child.

4.5.2 Analysis of responses from the guardians/employers of child domestic labourers at Kpando Torkor

Children involved in domestic work experience a variety of circumstances that are detrimental to their well-being. Some of these children experience emotional and psychological issues, which severely limit their ability to grow and develop. The consequences reported by the employers were organized into themes: mental instability, emotional instability and physical abuse.

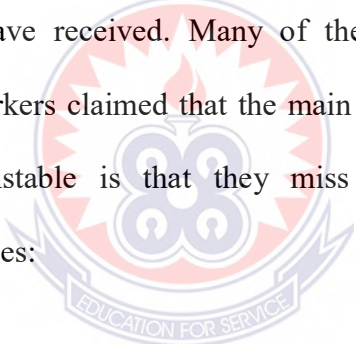
4.5.2.1 Physical abuse

Many children who work as domestic helpers experienced various forms of mistreatment from their employers whilst others are attacked and suffer bodily injuries. During the interview, one of the responders said, “...*they face no problem staying with me. But as you know every child need discipline so I lash them when they go wrong*” (R2). Another respondent said, “...*I ask him to kneel down when he goes wrong. Is it a punishment?*” (R1)

From the responses above, it is clear from the study that a lot of child domestic workers go through physical abuse in their masters' and mistresses' houses. They go through punishments that are harsh and cruel from their master/mistresses. This assertion could further be situated in the study of Nwankaba, (2014) where he concluded that domestic accidents, which can cause death or permanent deformity, physical and mental abuse, sexual harassment, and inadequate rest periods are all common risks for child domestic workers.

4.5.2.2 Emotional instability

Many of the children who work as domestic helpers are far from their parents and therefore sense their absence. They also feel awful and are unhappy because of the brutal treatment they have received. Many of the interviewees who hire young children as domestic workers claimed that the main reason why these children often become emotionally unstable is that they miss their parents. Below are the respondents' chosen replies:



“...sometimes he missed the parents. This makes him dull sometimes. Because of that she sometimes refused to go to school.” (R3) “...hmm! not any big problem. Just that he feels the absence of his parents sometimes. Because of that he will refuse to eat the whole day.” (R4) “... he is moody always.” (R5).

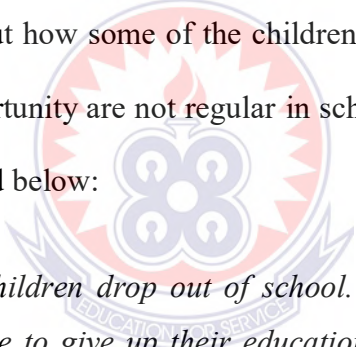
The study found that many children who work as domestic helpers develop emotional instability, as may be inferred from the comments above. Being in their current surroundings makes them depressed and miserable.

4.5.3 Responses from a focus group discussion held with selected community members

There are numerous effects of child domestic labour on children's development. During the discussion with the selected community members, a lot of effects were made mentioned. These responses from the respondents were put into themes: impact on education, impact on health and child abuse.

4.5.3.1 Impact on their education

Many of the children who are involved in child domestic labour do not have the opportunity to attend school. Even those who have the chance to go to school are not regular in school. When asked about the effects of domestic labour on the children, many of them pointed out how some of the children are made to leave school whilst others who had the opportunity are not regular in school. Selected responses from the respondents are presented below:



“...some of the children drop out of school.” (R4) “... some of the children are made to give up their education to serve in the house.” (R5) “... some of the children do not have any good future. This is because they are not given any avenue to develop themselves. For example, a child that could have become a minister will end up becoming a local fisherman just because he was not given the chance to further his education. If child domestic labour were to be in every place as we see, some of the children who became doctors and nurses that we see today would not have made it.” (R2)

From the responses above, it is evident from the study that many of the children who are into child domestic labour would not end with any good future. They become school drop-outs and their dreams are shattered.

4.5.3.2 Impact on health

Children involved in domestic labour go through a lot of maltreatment that affects their health. When asked how child domestic labour affects the children, some of the respondents mentioned that some of the children become sick whilst others become malnourished due to the food and the heavy items they carry. Selected responses from the respondents are shown below:

“Sometimes the children carry heavy containers to fetch water. This workload becomes too much for them and they suffer a lot from back pains. Some of them even get hurt during the performance of their task. ...They get sick often.”(R1) *“.... they become malnourished and sometimes when you see them you will observe that the child is really suffering. The salty water they put their hands in also destroys their hands.”* (R2) *“... hmm! We once witness a situation where a child who went to the river to fetch water got drowned but was later rescued. A child is currently a deaf person. The children also suffer from malaria.”* (R3) *“ ... a child I know is now blind because the master used cane on him.”* (R5)

From the above responses, it is clear from the study that many of the child domestic labourers experienced health problems. The children get sick often because they are bitten by mosquitoes whilst others do not eat a good diet. This ill health can prevent them from achieving their aim in life.

4.5.3.3 Child abuse

Some of the children involved in domestic labour suffer certain abuses in their employer's homes. They are punished when they go wrong. Some of the punishments meted out to these children are too cruel. One of the respondents said, *“.... when the children become lazy too, they slap, hit, and ask them to carry blocks in their palms*

whilst they squat. They give them tasks that they know the children cannot perform.”
(R5).

From the response above, it is evident from the study that children who are into domestic work are abused. They receive cruel punishment from their masters when they flout their rules. Others are punished badly when they failed to perform the duties assigned to them.

4.5.4 Analysis of responses from the Municipal Director of Social Welfare, Kpando

The implications of child domestic labour are numerous. When asked about the impact of child domestic labour on children's development during the interview with the Director of Social Welfare, he said, *“It affects the child's total development and moral upbringing where his or her basic needs are denied such as health, education, shelter, clothing needs and social life.”*

The above response, it shows clearly shows that child domestic labour affects the development of children.

4.5.5 Analysis of responses from the Municipal Chief Executive, Kpando

Many of the situations that impact child domestic workers are severe. To put it mildly, it is unclear how child domestic work affects the development of the children. The Municipal Chief Executive stated some of the following implications of child domestic labour on children's development during the interview:

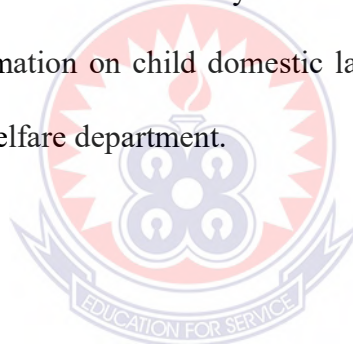
“It is unfortunate that some of these children remain in the community uneducated. They also do not dream big about their life. Some also do not have that self-confidence that they can also become better people in the country.”

From the above response, it is evident from the research that a lot of the children involved in domestic labour are affected and this inhibits their personal development.

4.6 Summary

From the analysis of views of respondents, the following can be said.

1. Limitation in the understanding of the “concept domestic labour” on the part of the children, masters and mistresses involved in the act.
2. Children involved in child domestic labour are unaware of the illegality of the menace.
3. Limitation in the awareness of the effects of child domestic labour on the child by the mistresses and the community members involved in the act.
4. Inadequate information on child domestic labour to the Municipal Assembly and the Social Welfare department.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

The summary of the analysis's major results, conclusions, and suggestions are presented in chapter five. The main objective is to determine the prevalence of child domestic labour in the Kpando Municipality.

5.1 Summary of Findings

5.1.1 Knowledge level of the people on child domestic labour in the Kpando

Municipality

Responses gathered from the children, employers of child domestic labour, the Director of Social Welfare, selected community elders and the Municipal Chief Executives suggest that child domestic labour is prevalent in the Kpando Municipality. Also, all the respondents interviewed had different knowledge about child domestic labour. There are others who also think that it is where a child leaves the parents and goes to stay with another person, others think is a situation where a child whose parents are poor goes to stay with another person. To continue, some also think that child domestic work is where a child goes to stay with another person for support. Furthermore, some also believe that it is when a child of school-going age involves him or herself in domestic work for a fee.

There is inadequate knowledge of child domestic labour in the community and the municipality as a whole.

5.1.2 Experience of children involved in child domestic labour in the Kpando

Municipality

Responses gathered from the children, employers, selected community members, the Director of Social Welfare and the Municipal Chief Executive suggest that a lot of child domestic labourers go through a lot of experiences. This includes the performance of all house chores, smoking and salting of fish. Others include not sleeping early during the night, eating an unbalanced diet, abuse and not attending school, and those in school not being regular. All the respondents interviewed mentioned one or two of the above. This means that children involved in child domestic labour in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality go through a lot of situations that are not healthy for their future.

5.1.3 Reasons for children's involvement in child domestic labour in the Kpando

Municipality

Responses gathered from the children, employers, selected community members, the Director of Social Welfare and the Municipal Chief Executive, showed that children engage in child domestic labour for a lot of reasons. Some of the reasons mentioned are poverty of the parents of the child domestic labourers, lack of school in communities where these child domestic workers come from, lack of parental care for the child domestic workers, and large family size of some of the families that make them unable to support the children and inability of perpetrators of these crimes to be punished by the right institutions concerned. This shows that there many reasons why children are involved in domestic labour in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality.

5.1.4 Effects of child domestic labour on the development of the children in the Kpando Municipality

Responses gathered from the children, employers, selected community members, the Director of Social Welfare and the Municipal Chief Executive, showed that children involved in domestic work in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality are really affected by the act. The effects mentioned were, wounds on the body of the children, some becoming deaf in the ear, emotional imbalance and school drop-out. Others mentioned are, that they become low achievers in life, have poor performance at school, loss of self-confidence and many more. The study shows clearly that child domestic labour affects the development of the children in the Torkor in the Kpando Municipality.

5.2 Conclusion

From the findings, the following conclusions were made:

First of all, child domestic labour is prevalent in the Torkor in the Kpando Municipality, especially in the fishing communities within the Kpando Municipality.

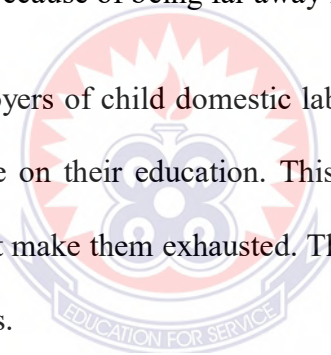
Furthermore, child domestic labourers are engaged in child domestic labour because they do not have schools in their community. The employers promise their parents of taking the children away to attend school in Torkor community. These employers engage these children in domestic labour. The children go to school but are not allowed to focus on their education but domestic work. To add to this, child domestic labour is prevalent in Torkor community because some of the children are from poor homes making it difficult for their parents to take care of their needs. Therefore, they move into other homes where they engage them in domestic labour. Also, some of the children are into domestic labour because of large family size. Some of these

children come from homes where they have many siblings. This makes it impossible for their parents to take good care of them. Their parents therefore allow them to go and stay with other people who in turn engage them into domestic labour.

Some of these children also go through a lot of problems in their new homes. Some of them hardly sleep because they have to stay awake and smoke fish. Some are engaged in salting of fish. The salt water affects their hands. Some also hardly rest because of house chores like fetching of water, sweeping, cooking and fetching of firewood.

To continue, some of these children go through physical, mental and emotional pains. Some the children have wounds on their body due to canning, some becoming deaf in the ear. Some feel lonely because of being far away from their parents.

Lastly, some of the employers of child domestic labours do not give the children the opportunity to concentrate on their education. This is because they engage them in different house chores that make them exhausted. This makes the children not to have time for their home studies.



5.3 Recommendations

Based on the various findings and conclusions on the prevalence of child domestic labour in Torkor in Kpando Municipality, the knowledge level and understanding of the people on child domestic labour, the assessment of the experiences of the children involved in child domestic labour, the determination as to why children have involved in child domestic and the assessment of the effects of child domestic labour on the development of the children in the Kpando Municipality, the following recommendations are made:

1. The department of social welfare should carry out community education on the problems associated with child domestic labour in all communities, especially the villages so as to prevent parents from giving out their children.
2. Also, the Kpando Municipal Assembly should allow communities, where child domestic labour is prevalent to choose the head of committees that will be set up to by the government.
3. The social welfare and the police in Kpando must intensify their fight against domestic child labour in the Kpando Municipality by arrestin the pepetrator of the crime.
4. Government of Ghana should make it a priority to build schools in every community within the Kpando Municipallity so that all children can have access to education within their communities.
5. The Kpando Municipal Assembly must strengthen the Torkor Community Child Protection Committee with logistics so that they can fight against child labour labour in the community.
6. The Kpando Municipal Assembly must send delegation to the communities where child domestic labour is prevalent before bringing in any intervention.
7. The government through the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection must empower both men and women financially so they can also engage in a meaningful trade to take care of their children.
8. Th Ministry of Gender, Children and Social protection must put in place sensitization programmes in educating the general public on the dangers associated child domestic labour.
9. The Social Welfare Department in the Kpando Municipality must put in place sensitization programmes on the merits of having lesser number of children.

10. The National Commission for Civic Education must visit schools and communities to educate the children on their rights.

5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies

The researcher suggests that future researchers on a similar issue should broaden the scope of the study to cover all the fishing communities in the Kpando Municipality of Volta Region so that the study from such study could be generalized. Also, future researchers on similar issue should interview parents of the child domestic labourers living in villages at the other bank of the Volta Lake.



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Interview Guide for Children in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality of the Volta Region of Ghana

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an MPHIL student of social studies department of the University of Education, Winneba. Currently, am working on my master's degree thesis on the topic: *Prevalence of Child Domestic Labour in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality of the Volta Region.*

I would greatly appreciate your input in completing this survey. Complete confidentiality

will be provided in the sense that high ethical standard will be maintained to ensure that no harm is caused to any respondent. I will ensure that any information provided is kept

confidential by using it only for the purpose of this research.

Also, the anonymity of the participants would be protected by ensuring that the interview schedule and the research findings do not contain the names of the participants.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Agbodzi Gabriel Kwabla
(Researcher)

1. What is your understanding of child domestic labour?
2. Does it exist in your area?
3. What kind of work do you normally engage in as child domestic worker?
4. What are your reasons for engaging in child domestic work?
5. What are your experiences as child domestic worker?
6. What are the effects of domestic work on your personal development?
7. What advice will you give to your parents/ guardians on how to address the issue of child domestic work?
8. In your opinion what advice will you give to the government in addressing child domestic labour?



APPENDIX B

Interview Guide for Child Domestic Employers/Guardians in Torkor in the Kpando Municipal of the Volta Region of Ghana

Dear Sir/Madam

I am an MPHIL student of social studies department of the University of Education, Winneba. Currently, am working on my master's degree thesis on the topic: *Prevalence of Child Domestic Labour in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality of the Volta Region.*

I would greatly appreciate your input in completing this survey. Complete confidentiality will be provided in the sense that high ethical standard will be maintained to ensure that no harm is caused to any respondent. I will ensure that any information provided is kept confidential by using it only for the purpose of this research.

Also, the anonymity of the participants would be protected by ensuring that the interview schedule and the research findings do not contain the names of the participants.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Agbodzi Gabriel Kwabla
(Researcher)

1. What is your understanding of child domestic labour?
2. Give reasons why you engage these children in domestic work?
3. What kind of work do you engage the child/children in?
4. Give reasons why these children were sent by their parents to work for you?
5. In your opinion what do you think are the effects of involving these children in domestic work?
6. What will be your suggestion to government on how to address child domestic labour?



APPENDIX C

Interview Guide for Focus Group Discussions among Community Elders in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality of the Volta Region of Ghana

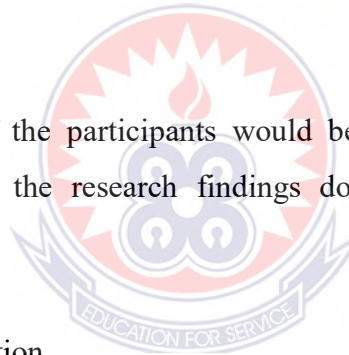
Dear participants,

I am an MPHIL student of social studies department of the University of Education, Winneba. Currently, am working on my master's degree thesis on the topic: *Prevalence of Child Domestic Labour in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality.*

I would greatly appreciate your input in completing this survey. Complete confidentiality will be provided in the sense that high ethical standard will be maintained to ensure that no harm is caused to any respondent. I will ensure that any information provided is kept confidential by using it only for the purpose of this research.

Also, the anonymity of the participants would be protected by ensuring that the interview schedule and the research findings do not contain the names of the participants.

Thanks for your cooperation.



Agbodzi Gabriel Kwabla
(Researcher)

1. What is your understanding of child domestic labour?
2. How is child domestic labour prevalent in this community?
3. What are the causes of child domestic labour?
4. What are some of the experiences that children involved in domestic go through?
5. In your opinion what are the effects of child domestic labour on the children who are involved in it?
6. What interventions has the community put in place to solve the problem?
7. What do you think government must do to address the problem of child domestic work?



APPENDIX D

Interview Guide for Municipal Chief Executive of Kpando Municipality of the Volta Region of Ghana

Dear sir/Madam

I am an MPHIL student of social studies department of the University of Education, Winneba. Currently, am working on my master's degree thesis on the topic: *Prevalence of Child Domestic Labour in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality.*

I would greatly appreciate your input in completing this survey. Complete confidentiality

will be provided in the sense that high ethical standard will be maintained to ensure that no harm is caused to any respondent. I will ensure that any information provided is kept

confidential by using it only for the purpose of this research.

Also, the anonymity of the participants would be protected by ensuring that the interview schedule and the research findings do not contain the names of the participants.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Agbodzi Gabriel Kwabla
(Researcher)

1. How do you understand child domestic labour?
2. Is child domestic labour prevalent in your district?
3. What are the causes of child domestic labour?
4. What are some of the experiences that child domestic labours are taken through?
5. What are the effects of child domestic labour?
6. What policies or actions have y put in place to fight child domestic labour in your district?
7. What do you suggest to government in curbing this menace?



APPENDIX E

Interview Guide for the Director for Social Welfare in the Kpando Municipality of the Volta Region of Ghana

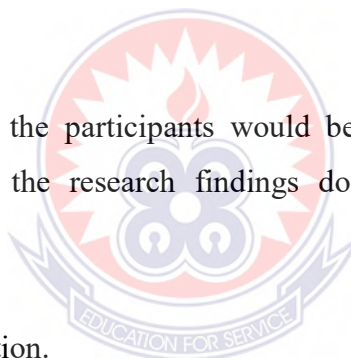
Dear Sir/Madam

I am an MPHIL student of social studies department of the University of Education, Winneba. Currently, am working on my master's degree thesis on the topic: *Prevalence of Child Domestic work in Torkor in the Kpando Municipality.*

I would greatly appreciate your input in completing this survey. Complete confidentiality will be provided in the sense that high ethical standard will be maintained to ensure that no harm is caused to any respondent. I will ensure that any information provided is kept confidential by using it only for the purpose of this research.

Also, the anonymity of the participants would be protected by ensuring that the interview schedule and the research findings do not contain the names of the participants.

Thanks for your cooperation.



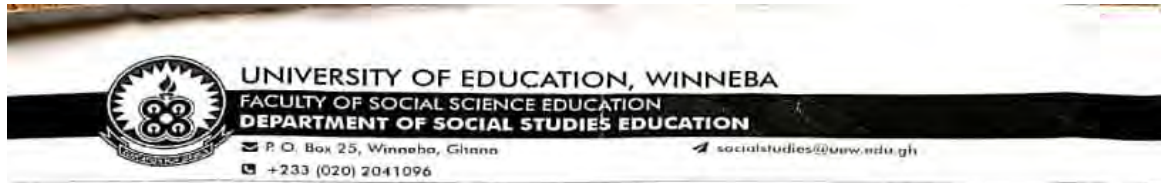
Agbodzi Gabriel Kwabla
(Researcher)

1. How do you understand is child domestic labour?
2. Is child domestic labour prevalent in your district?
3. What are some of the tasks that the children are engage in?
4. In your view, what are the causes of child domestic labour?
5. In your opinion, what are the effects of child domestic labour?
6. What policies or actions have you put in place to fight child domestic labour in your district?
7. What do you suggest to government on how to deal with this child domestic labour?



APPENDIX F

Introductory Letter



20th June, 2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION: AGBODZI GABRIEL KWABLA

I write to introduce Agbodzi Gabriel Kwabla to your outfit. He is an M.Phil. Social Studies Education student, with index number 202141172, from the Department of Social Studies Education, University of Education, Winneba.

As part of the requirements for the award of the Master of Philosophy degree, he is undertaking research on the topic: "*Prevalence of Child Domestic Labour in the Kpando Municipality*".

I wish to assure you that any information provided would be treated confidential.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Nyala".

Margaret G. Nyala (Mrs.)
For: Ag. Head of Department