**INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN HOUSING CONSTRUCTION IN LAGOS STATE**

 **Abstract**

*The study examines the involvement of children in housing construction in Lagos state Nigeria. A Case study research design was adopted, while both primary and secondary data were sourced. Using a multi stage sampling procedure, six out of fifteen settlements that makes up the Ibeju–Lekki LGA which is made up of fifteen settlements were purposively selected. This was consequent upon the high concentration of construction works that was going on in the area. A total of 278 housing construction sites were identified and 110 out of 220 construction sites were randomly selected, representing 50% of the sample frame. Subsequently, a structure questionnaire was administered to two respondents (children) randomly sampled in each of these construction sites, making a total of 220 constituting the sample size. Both descriptive and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) statistics were used in analyzing the data collected, while qualitative data were content analysed. The factors responsible for the involvement of children include; financial crisis (61.0%), skill acquisition (17.0%). The money realized form was used for; family’s feeding (49.0%), sibling’s school fees (3.6%). The role of the respondents includes fetching of water 32.0%, carrying concrete 26%, while the challenges were malaria (54.7%), construction accidents (5.9%). Despite the positive influence of the children in the construction activities, its challenges have been quite noteworthy. Therefore, efforts should be made to avoid their early exposure to construction work.*

**Keywords; Children involvement, Housing construction, Construction accidents, Lagos state**

1. **Introduction**

Construction industry is the single largest employer of labour, the poorest of the poor. Millions of unskilled porters, bricklayers and other low-caste laborers have left their native villages for big cities in attempt to get better job opportunities so as to tackle the challenges of extreme rural poverty. These workers are spread across the country and travel from one area of work to another along with their families. They live in temporary settlements, sometimes provided by the construction company, for the duration of the construction project and then move to another site. According to Washington post (2015), They usually belong to the poorest section of the population and most of them are illiterate.

 Udry, (2003), articulated that the industry employs all kind of people, the old, the young, the male and female gender, the handicap and even the children. Children involvement in construction works is an insidious evil leaving aside pathological cases of child abuse and abandonment. It exists because it is the best response people can come up with to intolerable circumstances. It is particularly dangerous because it involves the sacrifice of a child’s future welfare in exchange for immediate benefit, and difficult to combat because it involves questions of agency and power within household.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) relates the phenomenon to the harm done to children by their current engagement in certain types of economic activities. United Nations Children Funds (UNICEF) emphasizes that the issues go way beyond the concerns of investments or its relation to economic activities, including several aspects of domestic works which conflict with the best interest of the child (Hurbler, 2006).

The conventional working definition defined child labour as “the child under 15 years of age, “economically active”, works regularly to be remunerated or involve in output destined for market” (ILO, 1996). Notwithstanding, setting 15 years as the general minimum age for employment was considered as reflecting a view that a child should not work to the extent of harming the development of broadly defined human capital. Although according to the convection, they are expected to engage in a light work that is not likely to be harmful to their health or development and such as not to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programs approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received.

United nations response to eradicate child labour, was entrenched in the Millennium Developments Goals (MDGs) which was specifically geared towards addressing some of the causes of child labor which in turn, was plan to eradicate child labor (children involvement in construction work), poverty, food insecurity, among others. This same plan was also replicated in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). As good as both MDG and SDG programme were, the growing phenomenon of child labor undermines its achievement. This is common particularly in developing countries where unskilled labour required especially in the construction sector are difficult to come by. The question of visibility of the chunk of children’s involvement in child labor are quite challenging in the national statistics and plans. As a result, they are not the target of programs and policies. Base on the foregoing, investigation into the involvement of children in construction is germane.

1. **Statement of problems / Literature review**

Construction industry and the lives of construction workers are characterized by insecurity of wages, dangerous working conditions, lack of access to any kind of welfare, and leave facilities are hardly ever available for the construction workers coupled with rare holiday policy-. The working hours of the construction laborers varied considerably but most of them work as much as 8 to 11 hour a day (Washington post, 2015). Construction workers are unskilled and illiterate, thereby making them very vulnerable to exploitation. Being part of an unorganized and fragmented sector their bargaining power is low and they can’t easily fight against injustice (Washington post, 2015).

ILO (1998), observed that Children involvement in construction has health consequences that may only become manifest in adulthood, if they don’t address it almost immediately. Such long time risks can develop from early exposure to dust; toxins; chemicals such as fertilizer and pesticides; inclement weather; heavy lifting; or the forced adoption of poor pressure. Hazards may also threaten psychological health through exposure to abusive relationships with employers, supervisors or clients. Construction work is process of infrastructural development that impact positively on the growth and development any cities. Other related works on infrastructure have been captured by Jimoh and Wahab 2016, Jimoh 2022, Jimoh and Famewo 2022, Jimoh and Abdullahi 2022, Jimoh and Famewo 2022, Jimoh and Famewo 2023 Jimoh and Balogun 2022, Jimoh 2018, Jimoh 2021.

Similarly, Lee and Orazem (2008) discovered that the adverse health status of an adult who experienced working as a kid ranged from almost 30% for back problems, to less than 1.0% for cancer, tuberculosis, cirrhosis and inability to walk 100 meters. Other than kidney disease, responses differed significantly between men and women. In most cases, women have higher rates of chronic ailments. The highest incidence of physical limitation was 9.0% reported to have difficulty in lifting heavy things. Women also report having more task-related disabilities.

According to Togunde and Carter, (2008), many children who worked under exploitative conditions, apart from totally precluding schooling, have harmful effect on their physical condition and mental health. Long working hours are often responsible for fatigue that can cause accidents and impair intellectual development. In Nigeria for instance, underage wheel barrow pushers and teenage bus conductors as well as the street hawkers are prone to road accidents because of their recklessness and lack of sharp reflexes unlike their adult counterparts, thereby endangering their lives.

African Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN, 1995) reported that working children are more likely to suffer significant growth deficits compared with children in school. They grow up shorter and lighter and their body size continues to be smaller even in adulthood. Children who engage in hawking and other work not meant for children sometimes pick up bad habits from adults. They also learn things like pick pocketing in the garage while some turn out to be armed robbers. From these arise a number of other social problems like drug trafficking, stealing and kidnapping.

ILO (1998), quoting from World Development Indicators, 2000, estimated that 24.6% of children between the ages of 10-14 in Nigeria were working. Earlier before that time in 1994, the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) reported that approximately 24% (12million) of all children under the ages of 15 worked (UNICEF, 1995). An estimate reviewed by the ILO shows that 350 million children work. One fifth of the world’s children aged 5-17 years exploited in child labor in different forms. The study showed 218 million child laborers and 126 million are engaged in hazardous work (ILO, 2004).

Furthermore, the comprehensive review by Graitcer and Lerer (1998) presented a mixed picture of international evidence regarding the impact of child labor on health, primarily because of data limitations. Reported injury rates in Brazil of working children are not small of working children aged 10-14. About 9.0% are estimated to suffer injuries annually, and 3.4% are estimated to suffer disabling injuries.

An anthropometric data examined 417 children over a 17year period in rural India, and found out that children who worked in agriculture, small scale industry and services gained less in height and weight when followed through adulthood than those who attended school (Satyanarayana et al, 1986). Starting work under age of 9 has a negative effect on adult health. Their estimates control for age, race, education, wealth, housing conditions, and unemployment status. However, if child labor alters wealth, housing status or unemployment later in life, some of these controls are jointly determined with child labor and adult health, again raising concerns about endogenous child labor (Giuffrida et al, 2005).

Also Chandra (2000) in a study between parents whose children are involved in child work and those whose children are not involved in child work, reports that the perception of parents whose children are in child work greatly differs from parents whose children are not involved. Most parents revealed that the participation of a child in labor would depend on the family background and economic situations. Most of them also opined that education is more important than work. However, due to economic and socio-cultural constraints, preference is given to child work.

UNICEF (2005) is of the view that the working conditions of child garbage pickers clearly increase the risk of disease and disability through exposure to lead and mercury, presence of parasites and lifting of heavy objects as they search through the garbage. Also children who engage in farm work are more likely to be affected by exposure to inclement weather, heavy work, toxic chemicals, and accidents from sharpened tools and motorized equipment. Sexually exploited and abused children are also vulnerable to contracting sexually transmitted infections (STI’s) including HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy. Their vulnerability is high because according to UNICEF (2005) they do not have choice and the perpetrators are usually older people who have been previously exposed to sexually transmitted infections.

While all the aforementioned works had dealt with issues ranging from children involvement in various works of life including child labour, no adequate attention has been given to involvement of children in the construction company particularly in the area of Ibeju lekki where major construction is seriously on-going. The study therefore, examined the involvement of children in housing construction in Lagos state.

1. **Study Area**

Ibeju-lekki is about 75 kilometers long and about 20 kilometers at its widest point. Suffice to say, that Ibeju Lekki local government land area is about 646 kilometers square, equals one quarter of the total land mass of Lagos state. Hence, it is regarded as the fastest growing local government area in Africa and the future of Lagos state

The existence of Ibeju Lekki local government could be traced back to 1990 during the local government creation exercise by then Nigeria head of state, General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida. It was one of the four created in Lagos state and one of the two hundred and eighty-nine local governments created in the country that year. The name of the local government is derived from two autonomous communities, Ibeju and Lekki. It was originally tucked within the old Epe local government. Prior to creation, Ibeju Lekki was treated as a backwater suburb to the Epe Central and North.

From 1990, there was an upsurge in the development rate of the area reflected in the presence of economic and infrastructure development. Thus, in just few years of its existence and creation, Ibeju Lekki local government has ably put in place facilities and infrastructures to enhance the socio-economic development activities in the area. The creation of the Lekki free trade zone and the proposed international airport proposed to be created at Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Area created a fast inflation in the price of the land in the area, facilities, amenities and service. This area is popularly known as the “New Lagos”.

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***Fig. 1. Study Area***

***Source- Ibeju-Lekki Local Government planning Authority***

1. **Research Methodology**

A Case study research design was adopted, while both primary and secondary data were sourced. Using a multi stage sampling procedure, six out of fifteen settlements that make up the Ibeju–Lekki LGA were purposively selected. This was consequent upon the high concentration of construction works that was going on in the area. Thereafter, a total of 278 housing construction sites were identified and 110 out of 220 construction sites were randomly selected, representing 50% of the sample frame. Subsequently, two respondents (children) were randomly sampled in each of these construction sites, making a total of 220 constituting the sample size. A questionnaire containing,factors responsible for the children involvement in housing construction, to what money gotten from working on the construction sites is channeled to, the role partaken on housing construction sites, the number of hours’ worked on the construction sites and the challenges encountered in the process of working on the construction siteswas administered on the respondents. Both quantitative (descriptive) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) statistics were used in analyzing the data collected. The qualitative data were content analyzed. Notably, there are different age used in assessing child labour, however, International Labour Organization (ILO) standard was adopted for this study.

1. **Results and Discussion**
	1. **Factors Responsible for the Children Involvement in Housing Construction**

Investigation on the factors responsible for children involvement in housing construction was conducted. Variables investigated include; financial crisis, skill acquisition, paying off debts, family tradition, unilateral decision, personal reason and hospital bill. The study revealed that majority (61.0%) of the respondents had financial crisis as being responsible for the reason for the respondents’ involvement in housing construction work, while 17.0% and 2.7% of them were involved for the reason of skill acquisition and paying off debt respectively. The proportion of the respondents whose reason for involvement was family tradition and the reason based on unilateral decision accounted for 7.3% and 10.0% respectively. Respondents who engaged for the reason such as offsetting hospital bill accounted for 0.5%, being the least in the study area (table 1). Although, there are diverse reason for engaging children on the construction work. Nevertheless, based on the aforementioned factors, poverty incidence could be said to be the major reason for being engaged in construction work. This reflects the economic state of Nigeria where people live below poverty level of less than 1 dollar per day, thereby affecting education and quality of life. This supports the work of Marcus, (1999) where he noted that “economic/financial crisis result in squeezed livelihoods for poor families and reduced public investment in education and its quality, thus reducing its attractiveness to children and increasing its cost”.

**Table 1: Factors Responsible for the Children Involvement in Housing Construction**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LOCATION** |  | **TOTAL** |
| **Financial Crisis** | **Skill Acquisition** | **Pay Off Debts** | **Family Tradition** | **Engage Oneself** | **Offsetting Hospital Bill)** |
| **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **N0** | **%** |
| **SANGOTEDO TOWN** | 33 | 73.3% | 9 | 20.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 2.2% | 2 | 4.4% | 0 | 0.0% | 45 | 100% |
| **AWOYAYA TOWN** | 34 | 55.7% | 15 | 24.6% | 3 | 4.9% | 4 | 6.6% | 4 | 6.6% | 1 | 1.6% | 61 | 100% |
| **MAYFAIR ESTATE** | 26 | 81.2% | 4 | 12.5% | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 3.1% | 1 | 3.1% | 0 | 0.0% | 32 | 100% |
| **EPUTU TOWN** | 12 | 66.7% | 2 | 11.1% | 1 | 5.6% | 0 | 0.0% | 3 | 16.7% | 0 | 0.0% | 18 | 100% |
| **LAKOWE TOWN** | 21 | 47.7% | 6 | 13.6% | 2 | 4.5% | 9 | 20.5% | 6 | 13.6% | 0 | 0.0% | 44 | 100% |
| **BOGIJE TOWN** | 10 | 50.0% | 3 | 15.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 5.0% | 6 | 30.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 20 | 100% |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **136** | **61.8%** | **39** | **17.7%** | **6** | **2.7%** | **16** | **7.3%** | **22** | **10.0%** | **1** | **0.5%** | **220** | **100%** |

Source: Author’s Field Survey

* 1. **To what Money Gotten from Working on the Construction Sites is Channeled**

Furthermore, investigation was carried out on what money gotten form working on the construction sites were channeled to.The study revealed that family responsibilities played a significant factor, such as family’s feeding (49.0%), sibling’s school fees (3.6%) family house rents (2.3%) and family’s general welfare (28.6%). The proportion of the respondents proceeds from working on the construction sites that was channeled towards the payment of hospital bills, clothes, transports accounted for 11.8% (table 2). The implication is that, if the shank of family spending’s solely rest on the revenue generated from working on the construction sites, quitting may be very difficult especially in the developing countries where employment is challenging and getting alternatives job may not have been available. The result is further buttressed by the account of an adult during the FGD section whose child was also a respondent.

 *‘If the children did not go to do the job, how do I get their school fees, how*

 *do I pay their younger ones’ school fees and of course feeding? You can*

 *imagine, since the death of their father (my husband), leaving behind 4*

 *children, I have been responsible for caring for them. No helper anywhere*

 *and I can’t steal. The only way I can survive is to engage their brother in*

 *this job to join the income that comes from the petty trading am doing’.*

The result corroborated the study conducted by UNICEF (2005) earlier mentioned in this work.

**TABLE 2: To what Money Gotten from Working on the Construction Sites is Channeled**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LOCATION** | **HOW MONEY IS SPENT** | **TOTAL** |
| **ON FEEDING** | **ON SCHOOL FEES** | **ON HOUSE RENT** | **FAMILY WELFARE** | **HOSPITAL BILLS, CLOTHS, TRANSPORT** |
| **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **N0** | **%** |
| **SANGOTEDO TOWN** | 23 | 51.1 | 2 | 4.4 | 5 | 11.1 | 14 | 31.1 | 1 | 2.2 | 45 | 100% |
| **AWOYAYA TOWN** | 22 | 36.1 | 4 | 6.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 16 | 26.2 | 13 | 21.3 | 61 | 100% |
| **MAYFAIR ESTATE** | 29 | 90.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 9.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 32 | 100% |
| **EPUTU TOWN** | 11 | 61.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 27.8 | 1 | 5.6 | 18 | 100% |
| **LAKOWE TOWN** | 12 | 27.3 | 1 | 2.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 21 | 47.7 | 8 | 18.2 | 44 | 100% |
| **BOGIJE TOWN** | 11 | 55.0 | 1 | 5.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 20.0 | 3 | 15.0 | 20 | 100% |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **108** | **49.1%** | **8** | **3.6%** | **5** | **2.3%** | **63** | **28.6%** | **26** | **11.8%** | **220** | **100%** |

Source: Author’s Field Survey

* 1. **Respondents on the Role Partaken On Housing Construction Sites**

Regarding the roles partaken by the respondents on construction sites, investigation revealed that

32.0% were into to fetching water, 26% and 17% participated in carrying concrete and blocks respectively. Those who participated in food vending accounted for 9.0%, while 8.0% and 7.0% were into food vending for the construction workers and skills acquisition respectively. The variation across the study area is shown table 3. In general, majority of the roles available were head potting inclined, leaving the children at a high risk. By implication it has the tendency of affecting the growth of a child in the process of child development into adulthood (ILO, 1998).

**TABLE 3: Respondents on the Role Partaken On Housing Construction Sites**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** |  | **TOTAL** |
| **Fetching Water** | **Carriage of Blocks** | **Carriage of Concrete** | **Street Trading** | **Food Vending****For Constr Workers** | **Apprenticeship** |  |
| **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **N0** | **%** |
| **SANGOTEDO TOWN** | 9 | 20.0 | 11 | 24.4 | 13 | 28.9 | 4 | 8.9 | 6 | 13.3 | 2 | 4.4 | 45 | 100% |
| **AWOYAYA TOWN** | 20 | 32.8 | 9 | 14.8 | 14 | 23.0 | 6 | 9.8 | 8 | 13.1 | 4 | 6.6 | 61 | 100% |
| **MAYFAIR ESTATE** | 15 | 46.9 | 7 | 21.9 | 8 | 25.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 6.2 | 32 | 100% |
| **EPUTU TOWN** | 7 | 38.9 | 4 | 22.2 | 5 | 27.8 | 1 | 5.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 5.6 | 18 | 100% |
| **LAKOWE TOWN** | 14 | 31.8 | 6 | 13.6 | 10 | 22.7 | 6 | 13.6 | 4 | 9.1 | 4 | 9.1 | 44 | 100% |
| **BOGIJE TOWN** | 6 | 30.0 | 1 | 5.0 | 8 | 40.0 | 1 | 5.0 | 2 | 10.0 | 2 | 10.0 | 20 | 100% |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **71** | **32.3%** | **38** | **17.3%** | **58** | **26.4%** | **18** | **7.3%** | **20** | **9.1%** | **15** | **6.8%** | **220** | **100%** |

Source: Author’s Field Survey

* 1. **The number of hours’ respondents work on the construction sites**

Furthermore, investigation was also conducted on the number of hours’ respondents worked on the construction sites. It was revealed that half (50.0%) of this children work between 2-5hours, daily, 36.0% work between 6-10hours, while 6.0% work between 11-15hours. Other time allowance that the respondents worked ranges between 2-4days and 2-4weeks, accounting for 4.1% (table 4). The implication of the time spent on work put the children on health risk. Besides, the long hour used in working does not commiserate with the amount they are paid at the end of the day. The result was further corroborated by the assertion made during the FGD by the participants.

 *‘The work pays me a lot because I can’t get food to eat if am at home.*

 *But coming to work here, I have been able to secure 2 meals that has*

 *been keeping me every day. At home, at times, I ate once in a day. We can’t*

 *afford a tree square meal. Even more beneficial is still been able to work*

 *after school, as we are still being paid’.*

The reaction may be more devastating as leading to malnourishment. This has a long term health risk as shown in ILO, 1998, Washington post, 2015 and Togunde & Carter, 2008.

**TABLE 4: The number of hours’ respondents work on the construction sites in aday**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LOCATION** |  | **TOTAL** |
| **2-5HOURS** | **6-10HOURS** | **11-15HOURS** | **15HOURS** | **OTHERS(ALL DAY, HALF A DAY)** |
| **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **N0** | **%** |
| **SANGOTEDO TOWN** | 18 | 40.0 | 19 | 42.2 | 1 | 2.2 | 3 | 6.7 | 4 | 8.9 | 45 | 100% |
| **AWOYAYA TOWN** | 38 | 62.3 | 16 | 26.2 | 4 | 6.6 | 2 | 3.3 | 1 | 1.6 | 61 | 100% |
| **MAYFAIR ESTATE** | 13 | 40.6 | 17 | 53.1 | 2 | 6.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 32 | 100% |
| **EPUTU TOWN** | 9 | 50.0 | 6 | 33.3 | 2 | 11.1 | 1 | 5.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 18 | 100% |
| **LAKOWE TOWN** | 25 | 56.8 | 9 | 20.5 | 1 | 2.3 | 5 | 11.4 | 4 | 9.1 | 44 | 100% |
| **BOGIJE TOWN** | 6 | 30.0 | 12 | 60.0 | 2 | 10.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 20 | 100% |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **109** | **49.5%** | **79** | **35.9%** | **12** | **5.5%** | **11** | **5.0%** | **9** | **4.1%** | **220** | **100%** |

* 1. **The Challenges Encountered in The Process of Working on the Construction Sites**

The challenges encountered in the process of working on the construction sites were predominantly sickness which included; malaria (54.7%), cholera (11.8%) construction accidents (5.9%), road accidents (3.6%), and appendicitis and HIV (5.9%) (table 5). The high incidence of malaria and cholera can be attributed to their exposure to mosquito bites and dirty drinking water that are commonly used in the construction sites. Others may be associated to hazardous assignment such as carrying of heavy equipment and other stressful job associated with their work which are normally beyond the capacity that their age and strength could carry.

**TABLE 5: The Challenges Encountered in The Process of Working on the Construction Sites**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LOCATION** |  | **TOTAL** |
| **MALARIA** | **CHOLERA** | **CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS** | **ROAD ACCIDENT** | **(APPENDICE, HIV)** | **NONE OF THE ABOVE** |
| **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **NO** | **%** | **N0** | **%** |
| **SANGOTEDO TOWN** | 29 | 64.4 | 4 | 8.9 | 3 | 6.7 | 3 | 6.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 6 | 13.3 | 45 | 100% |
| **AWOYAYA TOWN** | 26 | 42.6 | 10 | 16.4 | 4 | 6.6 | 2 | 3.3 | 6 | 9.8 | 13 | 21.3 | 61 | 100% |
| **MAYFAIR ESTATE** | 24 | 75.0 | 4 | 12.5 | 3 | 9.4 | 1 | 3.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 32 | 100% |
| **EPUTU TOWN** | 14 | 77.8 | 1 | 5.6 | 1 | 5.6 | 1 | 5.6 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 5.6 | 18 | 100% |
| **LAKOWE TOWN** | 19 | 43.2 | 6 | 13.6 | 1 | 2.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 11.4 | 13 | 29.5 | 44 | 100% |
| **BOGIJE TOWN** | 7 | 35.0 | 1 | 5.0 | 1 | 5.0 | 1 | 5.0 | 2 | 10.4 | 8 | 40.0 | 20 | 100% |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **119** | **54.1%** | **26** | **11.8%** | **13** | **5.9%** | **8** | **3.6%** | **13** | **5.9%** | **41** | **18.6%** | **220** | **100%** |

Source: Author’s Field Survey

1. **Conclusion and Recommendation**

The involvement of children in housing construction has been glowered at by the ILO policy but sharply different from what it should be. Investigation has revealed that the situation in Lagos state is remarkably different from what obtained in the policy document of ILO. This is expressed in the positive economic impact it has attracted to the children and their family members. The opportunity of combining the work with schooling.

Therefore, there is a need to implement the divers’ economic development strategies at various tiers of government that is domiciled in the national policy document, in order to eradicate poverty and financial crisis which is a major reason for the involvement of children in housing construction site. There is a need to look into the minimum wage in the country to alleviate poverty. Creating a social welfare organization would also help reduce or totally eradicate child involvement in work

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