



## Effects of Agricultural Child Labour on Children's Perception of Farming Occupation in Delta State, Nigeria

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### Abstract

This study examined the effects of agricultural child labour on children's perception of farming occupation in Delta State, Nigeria. A total of 336 respondents comprising of 112 farming household heads and 224 children in the selected households were used for the study. Farming activities of the children were highest during weekends. Highest level of participation was recorded in herbicide and pesticide application. A participation index of 0.55 was recorded for children from the farming HHs. It was concluded that the socio-economic status of the HH heads and the need to transfer farming knowledge and skills through generations encouraged farming HH child labour in agriculture and the level of participation of the children in agricultural activities influenced their perception on farming occupation negatively. It is recommended that farming HH heads should be educated on the implications of child labour in agriculture; children should be allowed or made to participate in non-hazardous farming operations; children should be educated motivationally on the importance of farming occupation.

### Keywords:

Child Labour, Agriculture, Farming Occupation, Participation Index, Child Labour Regulation.

### 1. Introduction

Childhood is the most innocent stage of human life. Here the blameless child is an earning machine of the family who labours the entire day in order to meet the needs and wants of the family. This is child labor (Anyagarwal, 2009). The subject of child labour has been in the limelight in the past decade from policy makers, advocates and researchers. A staggering 15 million children under the age of 14 are working across Nigeria (and Delta State inclusive). Many are exposed to prolonged working hours in dangerous and unhealthy environments (Das and Sekhar, 1992; Gulrajani, 1994; Harari, Forastiere and Axelson, 1997; Hasan and Debnath, 2000). While children have always worked in Nigeria, the figures have significantly increased over the years.

Child labour is an unrelenting problem, prevalent in most of the developing world, and to a

reduced amount in developed nations. Dunapo, (2002) quoting Black (1993) states that children are caught up in abusive work when they are too hard for the small growing body.

Child labour is the involvement of young people below 15 years of age in the Labour force to make a source of revenue to sustain family earning (Grootaert and Kanbur, 1995). Findings have shown that involving children in economic activities encourages dropout in mass from school (Canagarajah and Coulombe, 1997). Child labour is not only on the increase in the developing nations but has taken different forms. ILO (1996) estimates put the occurrence of child labour at 250 millions in developing countries, out of which 61% is in Asia, 32% in Africa, and 7% in Latin America. The same source shows that 120 million children are full time workers and 88% of them are between the ages of 10 and 14 years. Basu et al (1998) stated that when

talking about child labour force level of involvement, highest ranked is Africa, which have thirty-three percent in East Africa, 24 percent in West Africa and 22 percent in Central Africa. Ravallion and Wodon (2000) assert that this phenomenon hampers the development of human resources and potential of developing countries.

By tradition, children have worked with their families, learning skills they would need as adults, including farming skills and knowledge, but today it is now obligatory for children to labor for their own and their family's survival (Ofuoku *et al.*, 2014). Most times, in rural African settings, children work in their family farms and it is taken as part of home education. However, Like Ofuoku *et al.* (2014) found, most parents are ignorant of government policies on child labour. Evidence shown from studies has it that they are engaged in various harmful and non-harmful farm operations. The earnings from such labour by the child have become an important support by poor households.

Child labour has long been seen as a noteworthy violation of children's rights, fundamental labour rights and human rights, as well as a sizeable barrier to national growth. In recent decades, the international community has brought out important standards on how it should be taken and to prioritize its elimination. Three principal international conventions –the legal basis for local and foreign action against it, the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – together set the legal boundaries for child.

Children contribute to household labour supply, especially farm labour. During critical periods in the process of production when labour reserves are essential, the children contribute in terms of their labour which frees other family members in pursuing remunerative market activities. It is often seen that children add their earnings directly to their family through official wage from labour, others carry out a blend of farming activities, market activities and/or domestic activities, especially in Africa. The market and farming activities consist of agricultural production in family farm that are not paid for and in formal family businesses.

Domestic activities such as preparation of food, cleaning of household, and the task of taking care of other siblings are most child activities. Children have their function to play in poor households to boost income and survive in the face of economic shock (Dillon, 2008). In the rural sector in the economy of Nigerian which is characterized by smallholder farm ownership and an imperfect labour market, allocation of household labour to optimal

level is a crucial economic problem. Obasi (1999), Nwaru (2004) opine that households rely more on their family members than hired workers as sources of farm labour. It is within this perspective that farm households have found children highly useful in agricultural production, processing and marketing activities.

In addition, Nkamleu (2009) confirms the fact that it is necessary to understand the collaborative participation behavior of the family when sending their children to school and/or to work. This consideration could assist to bring more suitable policies about labour and education to get rid of hindrances to one of the most significant long term objectives of any poverty-conscious economy; developing human capital for the future.

Against this background, this study critically examined child labour and school attendance in Delta state and spelt out the implication both now and in the future.

Socially, children who works in industries have been noticed to experience decline in their educational development and performance. The prevalence of illiteracy, low school attendance, and low enrollment has been attributed to children's economic participation (Hasan and Debnath, 2000).

Furthermore, the intelligence and mental health of the child is also negatively affected. without a doubt, children who take part in dangerous agricultural works have been found to endure from oral abuse by the people who employ them, constant panic of loosing jobs, low self-esteem, and a loss of imagination and do not have direction for their future in life (Das and Sekhar, 1992; Gulrajani, 1994; Hasan and Debnath, 2000).

However, the involvement of children in agriculture has been said to be useful in the teaching of agricultural knowledge to children, thereby ensuring the transfer of such from one generation to another generation. As factual as the aforementioned is, the question that comes to mind is how these children view farming as an occupation for their future livelihood. Considering this fact, a study like this is considered worth carrying out to unveil the mind of these children about farming as an occupation.

Children's future is considered as of paramount concern to everyone. A lot of thought has been given to the need to study the level and nature of children's agricultural involvement to determine the types of activity that place them in danger (Adeoti *et al.*, 2013). The correlation that exist between schooling status and child labour has called for much attention recently. Nkamleu and Kielland (2006) and Adeoti *et al.* (2013) in their previous studies about child labour in agriculture point to lengthy time of

labour, unhealthy conditions in which children work, small pay, and low school attendance have positive relationship. Children may have to give up their schooling in order to take part in revenue generating activities. Rather than invest in the future of the children by sending them to school, the underprivileged rely on their labour, they therefore risk the repetition of poverty from one generation to the next.

It is disturbing that in the 21st century, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and the Third World Nations, the phenomenon of child labour have been found to be on the swell. Delta state is not excluded because we observe daily, the multiplication in the number of children who go about the streets trying to earn a living since 1991 when the state was created. This has resulted in many social vices which include thurgery, addictions, rape, robbery, prostitution and alcoholism (ILO, 1993). Basically, the project work serves as a document that would guide extension organizations and those who makes policy in the design of extension programmes and review of agricultural policies and programmes especially as related to children in agriculture.

#### Objectives of the Study

The major objective of this study was to determine the level involvement of children in agricultural labour and how it affects their perception on farming as an occupation. Specifically, this study was carried out to:

- (i) Establish the socioeconomic characteristics of the farming household head;
- (ii) Establish the age of the children involved in farm operations and their schooling pattern;
- (iii) Determine the level of involvement of children in farm operations;

- (iv) Examine the perception of farming household children on farming occupation; and
- (v) Determine the preference of career of the children;

#### Hypotheses

The two null hypotheses will be tested

Ho<sub>1</sub>: Level of involvement in child labour has no significant effect on children's perception on farming occupation in the study area.

Ho<sub>2</sub>: The socio-economic characteristics of household heads have no influence on child labour.

## 2. Materials and methods

This study adopted Delta State as the place of interest in this study. Delta State was carved out from the defunct Bendel State on 27th August, 1991. Bendel State was formerly recognized as the Midwestern Region as at the time it attained regional position in August 1963 from the then western region, it has 25 Local Government Areas (Fig. 1). The State covers a landmass of about 18,050km<sup>2</sup> which has more than 60% land mass. The provisional census result of 2006 figure recorded 2,074,306 males and 2,024,085 females are in Delta State (NPC, 2006). The major tribes in Delta State include the Urhobos, Ukwuani, Ika, Igbo, Isons and Itsekiris. They basically practice identical customs, beliefs and traditions. The cultural Identity manifests in their traditional household management. Their systems of traditional community administration tend to be identical. The major occupations of the people include farming, fishing and hunting and about 80% of the active labour forces are engaged in these occupational activities with the remaining 20% in other occupations. The state is delineated into Delta North, Central and South Agricultural Zones by the Delta State Agricultural Development Programme (DTADP).

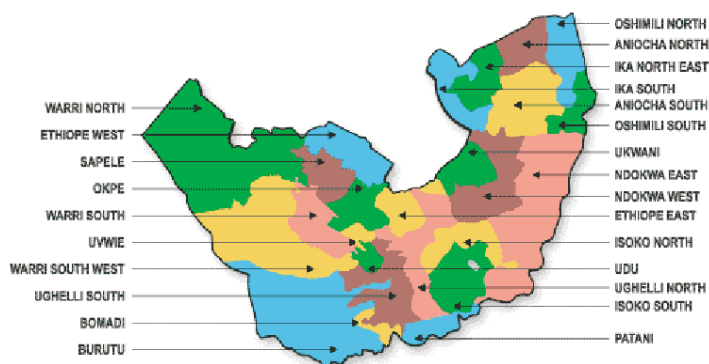


Figure 1. Map of Delta State

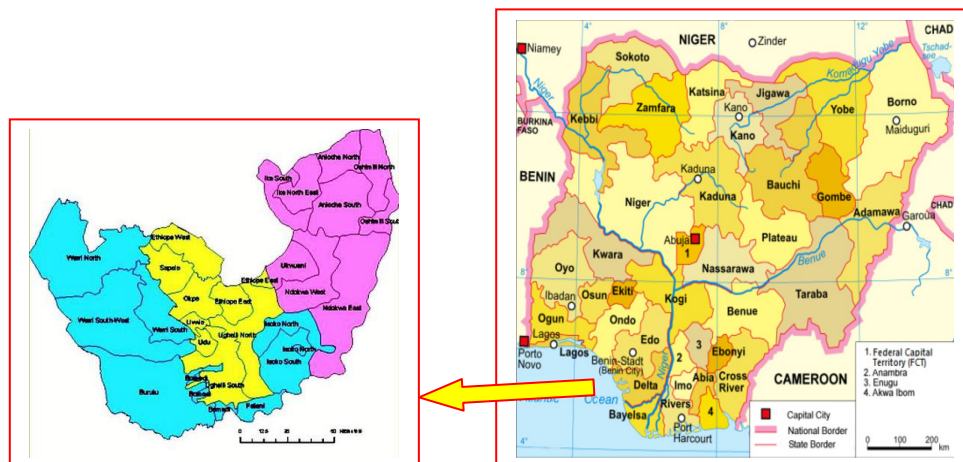


Figure 2. Position of Delta State in Nigeria

Table 1. Selection of Farmers

Agricultural Zone/Extension Block	Number of registered farmers	10 percent (10%)
Delta North		
Aniocha North	150	15
Ika South	162	16
Ukwuani	159	16
Delta Central		
Ethiope west	211	21
Okpe	164	16
Isoko North	138	14
Delta South		
Warri North	61	6
Patani	83	8
Total	1128	112

Multi-stage sampling procedure was used in this study. At the first stage, 30% of the local government areas (extension blocks) in each agricultural zone were randomly selected to have 2 local government areas from Delta South, 3 from Delta Central and 3 from Delta North Agricultural Zones. At the second stage, 10% of the registered farmers with the extension blocks were randomly selected. However, during the preliminary stage, in Delta South, Warri North and Patani LGAs were randomly selected. Ethiope West, Okpe and Isoko North extension blocks were randomly selected from Delta Central Agricultural Zone; while Ukwuani, Ika South and Aniocha North were selected randomly too from Delta North Agricultural Zone. These blocks were proposed and actually used for the study. At the preliminary stage the numbers of registered arable crop farmers were ascertained and the percentages computed as table 1.

This resulted to 112 farming household heads selected. Two (2) members of each of the

farmers' household of childhood age (7-17 years) were also be purposively selected. This gave a sample size of 224 respondents (farming household children). In this study, therefore, a total of 336 respondents were used. Data were collected from the children with the use of interview schedule, while data were collected from the farmers (farming Household heads) with the use of structured interview schedule and questionnaire. Data collected for the study were subjected to descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and percentages, means and inferential statistics. Objectives i, ii, and iv were achieved with the use of frequency counts and percentages. Objective iii and v were met treated with means derived from 4-point Likert's type scale of very often= 4, often=3, not often=2, Not done= 1; and strongly agree=4, agree=3, disagree= 2, strongly disagree =1 respectively with cut-off mean of 2.50. The level of participation will be ascertained with the computation of participation index. Hypothesis 1 was tested with the use of Pearson Product Moment

Correlation analysis. Hypothesis 2 was tested with the use of logistic regression model.

The level of participation in child labour was determined by computing the involvement mean; grand involvement mean and involvement index. A 4-point Likert's type scale of very often= 4, often=3, not often=2, Not done= 1, was adopted to compute the participation indices mentioned above as applied by Olaolu *et al* (2011); Nwalieji *et al* (2014) in their various studies. The involvement index was computed as follows:

Computation of the involvement mean. This was computed by dividing the total involvement score by the number of respondents (children) involved.

Computation of grand mean involvement score. This was done by summing up all the mean involvement scores and dividing them by the number of farming operations considered.

Computation of the adoption index. This was done by dividing the grand mean (M) involvement score by 4 scales of involvement.

Hypothesis 1 was tested with the use of Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) Coefficient.

Hypothesis 2 was tested with the application of logistic regression model. This model was used

because the dependent variable is dichotomous (yes=1; no=0 response). The binary response in this study was whether the child participates in agricultural child labour or not.

### 3. Results and discussion

The interpretation, analysis and discussion of result and findings are based on the objectives of the study as well as socio-economic characteristics of respondents in the study area. A total of 112 respondents were used for this study.

#### 3.1 Socioeconomic characteristics of household heads

As shown in the Table 2 most of the respondents (68.8%) were married, 9.8% divorced, 11.6% separated, and 9.8% never married. They had average of 41.8. 62.2% of the farming household headss were male while, 37.8% were female. Apart from 22.3% who had no formal education, the rest of them had one level of formal education or the other. With most of them having primary education 28.6%, secondary education 32.1% and tertiary education 17.0%

Table 1. Individual characteristics of respondents

Title	Frequency	Valid Percentage
Classification of Age		
Less than 25	20	14.3
30- 25	22	15.7
31- 40	38	27.2
41-50	36	25.7
More than 50	24	17.1
Total	140	100
Level of Literacy		
Literate	145	96.66
Illiterate	5	3.33
Total	150	100
Level of Education		
Primary	28	18
Middle School	33	22
High School	25	18
Diploma	39	26.6
University	20	14.6
Total	145	100
Major Products		
Sugar beet	43	32.8
Wheat	21	16
Corn	10	7.6
Pea	2	1.5
Apple	47	35.9
Other products	8	6.1
Total	131	100



Table 2. Socio-economic characteristics of farming household head

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Married	77	68.8
Divorced	11	9.8
Separated	13	11.6
Never Married	11	9.8
<b>Age(years)</b>		
30-39	24	21.6
40-49	47	47.8
50-59	25	22.4
60 and above	6	5.4
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	69	61.6
Female	43	38.4
<b>Educational Level</b>		
No formal Education	25	22.3
Primary School	32	28.6
Secondary sch.	36	32.1
Tertiary Education	16	17.0
<b>Household Size (persons)</b>		
3-6	60	53.6
7-10	35	31.3
11-14	14	12.6
15 and above	3	2.7
<b>Farm Size(ha)</b>		
0-0.4	2	1.8
0.5-0.9	17	15.3
1.0-1.4	53	47.4
1.5-1.9	6	5.4
2.0 and above	34	30.4
<b>Community Position</b>		
Position in community	8	7.1
No position in community	104	92.9
<b>Income(₦)</b>		
0-49,000	2	1.8
50-99,000	14	14.4
150,000- 199,000	39	35.8
200,000-249,000	21	18.8
250,000-299,000	10	9
100,000- 149,000	16	14.4
300,000 and above	7	6.3
<b>Group membership</b>		
Belonged to group	88	78.6
Do not belong to group	24	

The average of household size was 7.07 even as households with size of 3-6 recorded highest percent (53.6%), followed by households with 7-10 in number having 31.3%, and 11-14 households recorded 12.6%. But households with 15 and above only recorded 2.7%. Though the farm size of majority (47.4%) of the respondents fell between 1.0-1.4 ha indicating small scale production, others 30.4% had farm size of 2.0 and above, the average farm size was 1.3ha. Very few of them (7.1%) held position in their communities while the rest were occupying no

position. Their average farm income per annum across the 112 respondents was ₦172,000.

### 3.2 Schooling pattern of children involved in farming activities

Table 3 shows that farming activities were highest during weekends having a mean of 2.72. However, children who were not schooling at all but farming scaled lowest with a mean of 2.02, these schooling and farming after school having a mean of 2.40. This is an indication that most of the farming household children were involved in farming activities during weekend thereby avoiding having to

farm and school every day. This has a good implication for their academic achievement. These results confirm those of Ofuoku (2014) in their study which covered Nigeria.

### 3.3 Level of involvement of children in farm operations

Highest levels participation was recorded in herbicide and pesticide application with a mean of 2.76 and 2.74 respectively (Table 4). These activities are regarded as hazardous as the children could be careless. Most times, as observed, these children do not wear protective gears. These chemicals are capable of causing life time harm to these children. According to Diarra, (2013) exposure to pesticide could cause anaemia, cardiovascular, stomach and intestinal problems. This is congruent with Ofuoku *et al* (2014). The participation index of 0.55 implies that the children were involved moderately in farm labour.

### 3.4 Perception of farming HH children on farming occupation

Table 5 indicates that only two (2) of the statement presented to the respondents across the eight local governments scored below the Cut off = 2.50, while the other 12, scaled high above the Cut off = 2.50. It is worthy of note that, the two variables that scaled below the cut off are questions structured to know whether the respondent would like to study agriculture and become farmers. The children saw farming as an occupation meant for the poor, tedious, bring less respect, and make one dirty, as their negative impressions about it. They however saw farming as being interesting, profitable, and able to bring quick cash, an opportunity for self employment, generates additional income, provides food for the populace and like all areas of agriculture.

The implication is that, though they like farming, because of the people's impression about farmers and the low esteem they give to farmers, and the tedious nature of farming activities, as a result of the use of poor implements, they do not want to study agriculture and therefore would not like to take in farming as an occupation. This is in consonance with Apantaku, (2004).

### 3.5 Preference of career of the children involved in agricultural child labour

Nine(9) of the fourteen(14) career options that were presented to the children were rated high since they have mean score  $\geq$  2.50 ( Table 6). However, 5 rated low including Agriculture since they had the mean score  $\leq$  2.50. This is a confirmation that these children would not like to study agriculture in tertiary institutions and become practicing farmers and/or agriculture related workers in the future. Apankaku, (2004) found that senior secondary school students would not like to practice

agriculture or venture into a career in agriculture. These findings have a lot of implications for the future of agriculture in Delta State and in Nigeria.

Hoppick, (1997) asserts that the choice of occupation is dependent on emotional needs and particular values, individual attitude and societal prestige attached to a career among others. The drudgery involved in our type of agricultural practice has made it uninteresting to these children and so they do not like it. The society looks down on farmers and look up to medicine as being the best occupation. These children are affected by the action of the society. This factor has made many children to place less value on agriculture or farming as an occupation and also made them to develop negative attitude toward agricultural practice or farming.

### 3.6 Relationship between involvement in farm labour and perception about farming occupation among children of farming HHs

The two variables (involvement and perception) are negatively related (Table 7) This implies that, the more the children are involved in farm activities, the more the negative perceptions they have about farming as an occupation, because of its tedious nature and the low esteem erroneously placed on it by the Nigerian society. There is a high level of nexus between their perceptions about farming as an occupation and their emotional needs in terms of career. Their perceptions about farming occupation have influenced their emotion on their choice of career. Mean while, the choice of career is controlled by emotional needs (Hoppick, 1997).

### 3.7 Influence of farming HH heads' socioeconomic variables on use of children in farm operations

The socioeconomic characteristics of the farming HH heads such as age, gender, level of formal education and farm size had significant influence on their decision to involve their children in farming operations at 0.05 level of significance (Table 8). The coefficient of age bore a negative sign implying that a unit increase in age would lead to a unit decrease in the tendency to involve children in farm labour. This is at variance with *a priori* expectation. This finding is at variance with that of Ofuoku *et al* (2014). This is attributable to the fact that as a result of experience gained through the age by the household heads, they become risk averse and would not want to expose their children to hazards. They now become afraid that the children might be harmed or may sustain injuries. Gender had an inverse relationship with child labour. A unit decrease in gender will lead to a unit increase in child labour. That is, feminity promotes child labour, therefore, female farming HH heads are more likely to involve their children in agricultural labour. This is

in consonance with the findings of Ofuoku *et al* (2014), Adeoti *et al* (2013) and is according to a priori expectation. Children are closer to their mother and they are affectionately attached to their mother. Female headed farming household means that the woman will be seriously involved in farming and would want her children to work with her to earn a decent living. Education has a positive relationship with child labour. This implies that, a unit increase in educational attainment of the farming household head will lead to a unit increase in his decision to involve children in agricultural child labour. This is also at variance with a priori expectation. However, Ofuoku *et al* (2014), ILO (2010) found and assert respectively that farming HH heads' limited access to quality formal education is one of the correlates of decision

to involve farming HH children in agricultural labour. This is attributable to the fact that though the children are involved, they are made to carry out selected operations that are light in nature and they would not compromise their schooling. They also would want to transfer modern farming knowledge and skill to their children. Farm size had a positive and significant relationship with child labour. This means that, a unit increase in farm size will lead to a unit increase in agricultural child labour. With the poor nature of the farm implements used by the farmers, it is difficult to work on large farms. The farming household head therefore tend to involve children who are members of his household in farming activities. This is congruent with Ofuoku *et al* (2014) who had similar finding in a similar study in Nigeria.

Table 3. Schooling pattern of children involved in farming activities

Variables	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Score	$\bar{x}$
Schooling and farming after school	17(68)	32(96)	42(84)	21	269	2.40
Schooling and farming During Weekends	28(112)	44(132)	21(42)	19	305	2.72
Not schooling, But farming	14(56)	14(42)	45(90)	39	207	2.02

Cut off = 2.50 ( $\geq 2.50$  = high farming,  $\leq 2.50$  = low farming).

Table 4. The level of involvement of children in farm operations

Variables	Very Often	Often	Rarely	Not done	Score	Mean
Clearing/Brushing	11(44)	23(69)	25(50)	40	217	1.94
Tillage	13(52)	26(78)	33(66)	54	236	2.12
Planting	18(72)	15(49)	21(42)	58	217	1.94
Fertilizer Application	12(48)	42(126)	40(80)	18	272	2.43
Weeding	15(60)	24(72)	36(72)	37	241	2.15
Herbicide Application	23(96)	50(150)	24(48)	15	309	2.76
Pesticide	29(116)	40(120)	28(58)	15	307	2.74
Harvesting	11(44)	17(51)	35(70)	49	214	1.91
Processing	16(64)	18(54)	20(56)	62	236	2.11
Marketing	11(44)	18(54)	28(56)	55	209	1.86

Cut off = 2.50 ( $\geq 2.50$  = high participation,  $\leq 2.50$  = low participation). Grand Participation Mean = 2.20  
Participation Index = 0.55

Table 5. Perception of farming household children on farming occupation

Variables	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Score	Mean
Farming for the poor	27(108)	30(90)	32(64)	23	285	2.55
Farming is tedious	49(196)	37(111)	12(24)	14	345	3.08
Farming is interesting	26(104)	33(99)	41(82)	15	300	2.68
Farming brings less respect	254(96)	37(111)	34(68)	17	292	2.61
Farming is profitable	31(124)	52(156)	22(44)	7	331	2.96
Like to be a farmer	13(52)	38(114)	32(64)	29	259	2.31
Farming is for males	40(160)	26(52)	31(62)	15	285	2.55
Farming makes you dirty	53(212)	33(99)	8(16)	18	345	3.08
Farming does not bring quick cash Return	26(104)	54(162)	19(38)	13	317	2.83
Agric provides high opportunity for self employment	39(156)	47(141)	11(22)	15	334	2.98
Generates additional income	28(112)	56(168)	14(28)	14	322	2.88
Provides food for the populace	43(172)	40(120)	20(40)	9	341	3.05
Like all the areas in agriculture	35(140)	46(138)	16(32)	15	325	2.90
I like to study Agriculture	32(128)	17(51)	31	32	242	2.16

Cut off = 2.50 ( $\geq 2.50$  = high perception,  $\leq 2.50$  = low perception).



Table 6. Preference of career of the children involved in agricultural child labour

Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Score	Mean
Agriculture	25(100)	21(63)	40(80)	26	269	2.40
Medicine	32(128)	31(93)	24(48)	25	294	2.63
Accountancy	15(60)	49(147)	33(66)	15	288	2.57
Lawyer	15(60)	41(123)	38(76)	21	280	2.50
Banking	22(88)	42(126)	32(64)	16	294	2.63
Engineer	22(88)	41(123)	34(68)	15	294	2.63
Teacher	17(68)	43(129)	36(72)	16	285	2.55
Mass Communication	14(56)	43(129)	37(74)	18	277	2.47
Catering	19(76)	40(120)	46(92)	7	295	2.63
Marketing	35(140)	36(108)	31(62)	10	320	2.86
Computer Science	24(96)	41(123)	31(62)	16	297	2.65
Nursing	20(80)	31(93)	42(84)	19	276	2.46
Pharmacy	15(60)	31(93)	45(90)	21	264	2.36
Armed/Police Force	25(100)	20(60)	15(30)	52	242	2.16

Cut off = 2.50 ( $\geq 2.50$  = high preference,  $\leq 2.50$  = low preference)

Table 7. Involvement and perception correlation of farming HH children

Variables	Involvement	Perception
Involvement	1	-0.642
Perception	-0.642	1

Table 8. Logic regression estimate of the influence of farming HH heads' socioeconomic characteristics and their decision to involve their children in child labour

Variables	B	SE	Wald	Sig
Marital status	1.185	1.483	.639	.424
Age	-.068	.035	3.830	.050
Gender	-.402	.622	5.072	.024
Education	2.873	1.227	5.480	.019
Household Size	.118	.126	.876	.350
Farm Size	1.842	.849	4.703	.030
Position in community	-1.829	1.385	1.744	.187
Income	.000	.000	1.218	.270
Constant	.198	1.696	.014	.907

#### 4. Conclusion and recommendations

This study revealed that highest participation was recorded in herbicide application and pesticide application and most of the farming household children were involved in farming activities during weekend. Agricultural child labour negatively influenced children's perception of farming occupation in Delta State, Nigeria. It is evident from the study that agricultural child labour negatively affects young people's perception about farming. The age, gender, educational level of the farming HH heads, and farm size, significantly influenced their decision to involve their children in farming activities or not to.

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are given:

i. Farming HH heads should be educated on the implications of child labour in agriculture;

ii. Since it has a positive effect of transmission of farming knowledge and skills through generations, children should be allowed or made to participate in non-hazardous farming operations;

iii. Child labour laws should be observed to regulate the use of child labour in agriculture;

iv. Mechanization of agricultural activities should be encouraged by governmental and non-governmental agencies to make farming occupation attractive to children;

v. Children should be educated motivationally on the importance of farming occupation to the economy.

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