

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK**

**THE DYNAMICS OF CHILD LABOUR ALONG FISHING BEACHES OF LAKE  
VICTORIA: A CASE STUDY OF SORI BEACH IN MIGORI COUNTY**

**BY:**

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REG. NO. C50/73291/2009**

**A PROJECT PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTERS OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY  
(RURAL SOCIOLOGY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT) UNIVERSITY OF  
NAIROBI**

**OCTOBER 2013**

## DECLARATION

I, **JACINTER AUMA ODERO** declare that this research is my original work and has not been submitted for a degree in this or any other university.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....

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This project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University Supervisor.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....

**DR. B. M. MUTSOTSO**

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this project to my dear loving husband Alfred, my children Mouline and Steve who have been very supportive throughout this study. I also dedicate to the memory of my late mother Monica who valued education so much that she did not look back when others despised the education of the girl child.

Finally I dedicate this work to the Almighty God who has seen me through my academic career.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This research is as a result of moral and financial support from my family more specifically to my husband Alfred. For my children Mouline, Steve, Richard and Vin for their patience, support and nice smiles every day. Special thanks go to my Supervisor, Dr. Mutsotso, who has been instrumental at every stage of the study, from conceptualization to implementation, supervisory work and putting everything needed in place. Further appreciation is extended to the staff at JKML, University of Nairobi and beach management team at Sori Beach for their Support.

The research team also acknowledges the enormous contribution of all the research assistants particularly Owino who took part in the study, the respondents who provided the information and leadership at all levels in the fishing communities.

I also wish to thank my lecturers who taught me course work and laid the foundation for this project work.

May Almighty God bless you all.

## ABSTRACT

Child labour is a global phenomenon and there is no region in the world which is completely free of the problem. Child labour is work that deprives children the opportunity for schooling and forces them to assume adult roles prematurely. The practice is common in many developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This study set out to investigate factors that contribute to child labour along the fishing beaches of Lake Victoria. The study further sought to identify factors that motivate children to engage in child labour, examine the terms and conditions of service and finally to investigate roles of parents regarding incidence of child labour along Sori beach. The research design used in this study was descriptive study design. Both qualitative and quantitative data were used in this study. Data collection tools used included questionnaire, key informants guide, Focused group guide and photography. Collected data was analyzed by descriptive statistics using Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) and presented in tables and charts. The researcher then discussed the findings based on research objectives.

Research findings revealed that child labour is high at Sori beach with girls being most affected as compared to boys. The findings also revealed that major contributing factors of child labour along sori beach are; death or absence of parents/guardians, high level of poverty, cultural orientation, government failure to enforce regulation regarding children and low literacy level. The findings found that factors that motivate child labour were low illiteracy level of the parents/guardians, cultural issues where parents do not fully appreciate the value of taking their children to school, peer pressure, availability of easily accessible source of money (no strict guidelines in terms of age and qualifications before employment and negative impact of HIV/AIDS) that render many children orphans. The study findings further indicate that terms and conditions of child labour are exploitative, risky and abusive. Further findings indicate that a significant number of parents/guardians were encouraging their children to participate in child labour. Some of the difficulties encountered during the study were finances, time, and difficulty in data collection due to the high versatile nature of research population as well as the high number of respondents (children) who were naïve to speak to the researcher out of fear of possible victimization.

From the study findings it can be concluded that low level of education, income of the parents/households heads, unemployment, poverty, peer influence and death or absenteeism of parents, lack of enforcement of government laws are major motivating factors to child labour. A very worrying trend was noted where a significant number of parents induce their children to participate in child labour making them become part of the problem as oppose to being the solution providers.

The researcher recommends that the Government should ensure that laws governing issues on children welfare are enforced as required to fight the practice of child labour.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Child labour is a global phenomenon and there is no region in the world which is completely free of the problem. Child labour is work that deprives children the opportunity for growth, education and forces them to assume adult roles prematurely. The history of child labour can be traced back to the Industrial Revolution- UK (1780 -1840), when very young children were forced to work in mining, factories, farms, commercial work and even as domestic servants (UNICEF and ILO 2005).

The history of child labour can be traced back to the Industrial Revolution, when very young children were forced to work in coal mines, factories, farms, and even as domestic servants. Today, According to Ogendo (2013) about 220 million children worldwide are involved in child labour. According to (UNICEF, 2011) about 250 million children all over the globe are engaged in child labour. This practice is widely observed in the fisheries, mining, agriculture, factories and fireworks industries. According to (UNICEF and ILO 2005), child labour refers to both paid and unpaid work and activities that compromise physical, psychological, social and moral development of children. It is work that deprives children the opportunity for schooling and to assume adult roles prematurely.

Before the Industrial Revolution, child labour was not a big problem as children as young as 4-5 years would accompany their parents to aid in agriculture, coal mining, weaving, and other jobs. However, the Industrial Revolution brought up the dispute over child labour, as schooling became more important, and concepts of labourers and rights of children gained more prominence. The history of child labour skyrocketed with the industrial revolution, as it saw children working in factories, mines, and even having their own small business like selling food, flowers, becoming shoe shiners, matchbox makers, and laundry boys and girls. Some children worked as tourist guides, some set up small shops of their own and some opened up restaurants in their backyards and worked as waiters and cleaners. Some children however, chose to be street actors, singers and beggars (UNICEF 2011).

Pakhare (2011) noted that although, child labour was not new to the world, it is believed that during 1780 and 1840, there was massive increase in child exploitation. During the Industrial revolution, it was very common to find children working in factories. In 1788, about more than 60% of workers in textile mills of England and Scotland were children. Many laws were passed to eradicate child labour, but hardly succeeded. Many people were aware of increasing demand for educated workforce and the people of upper class had started to rule over the poor children. The demand for educated workforce provided all the extra reasons for children to join school. But there were parents who could not afford to send their children to schools, and hence children volunteered to work in farms, factories, mines, mills and fishery. Child labour alludes to the practice of employing children full-time in industries and other places, often under dangerous and unhealthy conditions. The practice is common in many developing countries, glaring examples being countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Many children across the globe lose their childhood working in hazardous conditions with meager pays.

Child Labour is a global phenomenon. There is no region in the world which is completely free of the problem (Fallen and Tzannatos, 1998). However, the incidences of Child labour vary with continents. According to statistics, Asia hosts the highest number of working children Asia (61%), Africa (31%) and Latin America (7%) (Njeru and Njoka, 2001): Grooetart and Kanbur, 1996). Although, Asia has the highest number of children labourers, Africa hosts the highest proportions whereby on average one in three children engaged in some kind of economic activity (Grooetart and Kanbur, 1995). Most of these children work in the agriculture-related sectors, fishery, commercial work, mines, households and industrial undertakings (Merkert, 1997). It is also noted that there are relatively very few children working in developed countries, thus rendering child labour a problem for developing countries. In overall, the number of working children aged between 5 and 14 years is estimated to be 250 million worldwide (Grooetart and Kanbur 1996).

In Kenya, the history of Child labour dates back to pre-independence days when Africans in the periphery of white settlements used to send their children to work in the farms and homes of settlers as a source of income. To-date, information available indicates that Child labour is widespread and the escalating number of children subjected to it in rural and urban areas is threat to the social and economic fabric of the economy (Halici, 2000). It is estimated that about 3.5 million children aged between 6 and 14 years in Kenya are involved in child labour

(Owuor-Oyugi, 1999). The Problem seems to be more pronounced in the rural areas where agriculture is the main economic activity. For example, (Kagunye 1993) noted that in Central Province of Kenya, it is estimated that about (60%) of the workforce in coffee plantations are children. In Eastern Province where miraa (khat) growing is rampant, children are usually involved in miraa harvesting and transportation and the payment are done to their parents (Goldsmith, 1995). This is not to say that urban areas are free of the problem.

Child labour seems to be justified by people who practice it. For example (Nyaoga 1984) in his study found that employers prefer child workers because of their efficiency, fastness on the job and obedience unlike adults who can be rude and slow. At the same time the problem of child labour is a controversial issue among many nations and especially those in Africa, Kenya included (Kagunye, 1999). This is because child labour as a social phenomenon hinges between two crucial perspectives. At one end, child labour is beneficial as it serves a socialization function. For example, (Kayongo-Male and Walji, 1984) in their study on children at work in Kenya found out that those children who worked in their childhood became responsible citizens in their adult life. On the other hand, Child labour is destructive and exploitative as it directly interferes with the development of the child (Grooetart and Kanbur, 1998 and ILO, 1996). This is the case especially where child labour is not effectively regulated.

Child labour brings about development problems to growing children. Children who engage in child labour often suffer from mental and physical retardation. Zani (1993) cited that mental repercussions come about because the ages at which children go out to work coincide with a period of profound change in their mental faculties. According to Muturi (1989), child labour may endanger the child's physical health and growth especially when there is poor dieting causing retardation. Consequently children who work in agricultural related activities are likely to be affected by climatic exposure, toxic chemicals and can be hurt from shaped tools as their young skin is very delicate (Grooetart and Kanbur, 1996). In addition, children are likely to suffer from extreme fatigue as a result of heavy work. Child domestic workers are likely to be affected psychologically when they work away from home. They are likely to be subjected to physical and sexual abuse by their employers (Onyango, 1989). Children working in factories are engaged in heavy-duty work equivalent to those done by adults and this may retard their physical development. In spite of the negative consequences of child labour, it is noted that employers view children as cooperative, efficient and faithful workers.

Hence, children are more likely to be exploited as cheap labour. It is therefore worth noting that if the issues are not well taken care of it can cause problems on children.

Child Labour has also been observed in Kenyan cities. For example, Zani (1993) noted that children are involved in hawking business on the streets of Mombasa town whereas Machera (2000) observed that most house helps in the middle income estates of Nairobi city are under the age of 16 years. In their study, Njeru and Njoka (2001) observed that children were engaged in both household and wage labour. They noted that wage labour is done for social and economic exchange relations whereas household labour has been part and parcel of the socialization for children in most African countries. The increased incidences of child labour phenomenon can also be attributed to an unequally increasing demand for child workers (Ouko, 1998). Children are often offered jobs and can easily be exploited by well to do adults. This is because the families of these children have unmet basic needs and, may not hesitate to send their children to prospective employers (Muturi, 1994).

Zani (1993) in reference to child labour in Mombasa noted that young children often work on the streets hawking bananas, biscuits and other food stuff as vehicles pass through the town. These children were noted to be working until late in the night thereby limiting their access to formal education and proper physical growth. Scholars have also argued that child labourers are denied the joy of childhood by being sent to work instead of playing and engagement of developmental activities (Kagunye, 1999; Muturi, 1989; Nyaga, 1984). In some cases children are lured into commercial sex and become exposed to hazardous and abusive environments including living in unsafe conditions, lack of shelter, food, clean drinking water, clothing and are denied basic child's rights like education and health care. Sometimes these children are exposed to dangerous bodily injuries through assaults and sexual exploitation, which results to contracting HIV/AIDS virus, unwanted pregnancies and sometimes death. These children sometimes find themselves in conflict with the law engaging in illegal trafficking of drugs or other contrabands (Oriedo, 2010).

In urban areas children are employed in the informal sector as domestic helpers, in street begging and hawking. Child prostitution and other forms of child exploitation is known to exist in major towns of Kenya like Mombasa, Malindi and Nairobi where young girls of below 18 years are involved as commercial sex workers (Mwandawiro and Maghang, 1999). In rural areas like Nyanza, child labour is most common in the sugar cane plantations around

Muhoroni, Miwani, Kibos, Sony and the various fishing beaches along the shores of Lake Victoria. In Migori County most children are engaged in fishing on the many beaches that dot the Lake Victoria shoreline (Onyango, 1998).

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Child labour has been a major problem witnessed in many parts of Kenya and various studies have shown that the problem is common in fishery, commercial work, tourism, agriculture, factories and domestic services sectors (Halici, 2000). Children involved in various forms of employment face many challenges such as: deprivation, social disadvantage, exploitation and poor health & physical development. Hence, child labour is extremely controversial not only because it involves so many children who work illegally but also because it is characterized by abuse and exploitation. Most of these children work under harmful conditions that are detrimental to their moral, physical and psychological growth (Oriodo, 2010).

In Kenya most families, especially in the rural areas, have many children as a result of the high birth rate with little economic capacity. Children are thus deprived of their basic needs such as education, good nutrition, health facilities, proper care and attention from their parents and if not measured properly, labour within the family can become exploitative especially when cultural child labour occurs at the expense of formal education, natural growth and development (Melo 1985). The problem can have far-reaching consequences on the child which could be detrimental for the country at large as it affects the most vulnerable human group. Despite the many negative impacts of child labour, the practice continues to escalate in Kenya where it is most common in the fishing sector.

The above mentioned researches and many others before them looked at the problem of child labour in more general terms that lack the knowledge that would be required to tackle such a deeply rooted social problem. The net effect is that the problem has continued without unabated. Despite the incidences of child labour along fishing beaches in Migori County there is little study on the dynamics of child labour along the beaches and this study intends to fill this gap.

### **1.3 Research questions**

1. What are the factors that contribute to child labour along Sori beach of Lake Victoria?
2. What are the factors that motivate children to engage in child labour along Sori beach of Lake Victoria?
3. What are the terms and conditions of service for children engaged in child labour along Sori beach of Lake Victoria?
4. What are the roles of parents/guardians regarding incidences of child labour along Sori beach of Lake Victoria?
5. What are the effects of child labour along Sori beach of Lake Victoria?
6. What are the challenges child labourers are facing along Sori beach of Lake Victoria?
7. What should be done about child labour along Sori beach of Lake Victoria?

### **1.4 General Objective of the study**

The main objective of the study was to investigate factors that contribute to child labour along Sori beach of Lake Victoria.

#### **Specific objectives:**

1. To identify factors that motivate children to engage in child labour along Sori beach of Lake Victoria.
2. To examine the terms and conditions of service for children engaged in child labour along Sori beach of Lake Victoria.
3. To identify the role of parents/guardians regarding incidences of child labour along Sori beach of Lake Victoria.

### **1.5 Justification of the study**

Child labour is a serious problem in Kenya affecting normal development of children. It is a creation of a wide range of factors yet it has not been adequately addressed (Njeru and Njoka, 2001). Various studies exist on child labour on coffee Plantations (Njeru, 2004), streets (Zani, 1993), factories (Kayongo-Male and P. Walji, 1984). However, not much has been done along the beaches of Lake Victoria where it continues to negatively affect the lives of children, families and community living along the beaches. It is on the basis of this that the study set out to establish the dynamics of child labour along fishing beaches of Lake Victoria with specific preference to Sori beach. This study may be useful to Government ministries especially the Ministry of Labour in policy formulation on child labour in the country. .



### **1.6 The scope of the Study**

The study focused on types of work performed by child labourers, terms and conditions of employer for the child labourers, Factors that motivate children to engaged in child labour, the roles of parents/guardians regarding child labour. Why businesses people prefer to employ children. The views of children about employment. Community views about child labour. Knowledge of the law against employment of children and what community and other stakeholders are doing about child labour.

### **1.7 Significance of the Study**

This study may be useful to government ministries especially the Ministry of Labour in policy formulation on child labour in the country. The study would also be useful to governments/organizations in contributing to a deeper understanding and knowledge of child labour as a social scourge particularly with regard to its influence and conditions. The study findings may also help Trade unions which may use the study findings to provide a framework for evaluating child labour. The study may benefit researchers and scholars who may use the study as a reference and to enrich Literature.

## 1.8 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

**Child: -** Is any person who is still below the age of 18 years and who should, under normal circumstances, be still under the care of either a parent or guardian for the provision of basic needs.

**Labour: -** Any human effort aimed at production either commercially or for subsistence and whose reward is attached to monetary value.

**Child labour:** This is both paid and unpaid work and activities that compromise physical, psychological, social and moral development of children. It is work that deprives children the opportunity for schooling. It is exploitative, denies children the opportunity to be children and makes them assume adult roles prematurely.

**Fishing:** This is the activity and task, involving harvesting, processing, distribution and consumption. The term “fishing activity” does not only refer to one who goes out fishing, but all those involved in the process between the capture of the fish and the consumer’s plate..

**Beach:** This is a geological landform along the shoreline of an ocean, sea, or lake. It usually consists of loose particles which are often composed of rock, sand, gravel, shingle, pebbles, waves or cobblestones.

**Lake:** This is a body of relatively still fresh or salt water of considerable size, localized in a basin that is surrounded by land. Lakes are inland and not part of the ocean, and are larger and deeper than ponds.

**Lake Victoria:** This is the largest lake in Africa and is also the second largest freshwater body in the world. Its extensive surface belongs to the three East African countries, the northern half to Uganda, the southern half to Tanzania, and part of the northeastern sector to Kenya.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents literature review on the dynamics of child labour which consists of historical overview of child labour, analysis of child labour phenomenon, nature and extent of child labour, factors that contribute to child labour factors, that motivate children to child labour, terms and conditions of service, role of parents/guardians regarding incidences of child labour, International Labour Organizations (ILO) Convention, African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child, Constitutional rights of children, Children's Act, Employment Act, Theoretical Framework, and Conceptual Framework.

#### **2.2 Historical Overview of Child Labour**

Most of the literature reviewed indicates that child labour is a product of social change and development. In the developed countries, child labour was as a result of labour shortage in factories upon an increased demand of manufactured goods (Clayton and Savage, 1974). The wind of industrialization in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in the west led to a shift from the agrarian agriculture to manufacturing. In Africa, child labour phenomenon was a consequence of the cash economy introduced by European colonizers in the continent.

In Kenya child labour intensified with the First World War (1914-1918). During the period, most of able-bodied men were recruited to fight in the war leaving women and children behind. Without the young and energetic men there was a shortage of labour in the Whiteman's farms. A favourable alternative was to engage children in the farms. According to the Barth Native Labour Commission of 1913, it was reported that children were favoured to work because they offer cheap and fast labour (Buel, 1965). It is estimated that Kenya has about 3.5 million children between the ages of 6 and 14 working of which the majority are house-helpers (Ouko, 1998). This is but a fractional representation because many more are likely to be working informally at home. Some scholars noted that children are an important source of labour in most Kenyan households Onyango, (1998), Machera (2000).

### **2.3 Analysis of Child Labour Phenomenon**

The notion of child labour as a social problem phenomenon harmonious physical, psychological and mental development of child goes back to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (Mendelievich, 1979). This era in history is associated with the industrialization of the Europeans continent and their conquest of the African continent and other parts of the world. Industrialization in Europe necessitated a shift from indigenous trade and agriculture to urban settings of industries and other commercial related activities (Oglethorpe, 1965). Most men shifted to urban centers to work in the factories. As a result only women and children were left as labourers in the farm. Their meager salaries were not enough to sustain their families. As a result, their children were also forced to join the labour force and hence supplement the family income (Nag, 1984; Kershaw, 1972 and Clayton 1974). As time went by children were increasingly exploited until children's work become synonymous to child abuse Onyango, (1989) and Machera M. E. (2000).

Most Africa societies viewed children's participation in labour as playing a socialization function (Onyango, 1989). According to Ekwe (1986), work taught children specific skills for adulthood and virtues such as responsibility, perseverance and hard work. However, the colonization of African communities by the Europeans changed the role of the family especially the concept of work ethics. Information about family labour patterns suggests a shift in the family's own economic system (Kayongo-Male and Walji, 1984). In 1901, the introduction of the hut tax in Kenya drew men into migrant labour, which left women and children into forced labour due to labour shortage (Clayton and Savage, 1974). This became more pronounced during the two World Wars (1914-1918 and 1939-1945) because men had been recruited to fight in the wars.

### **2.4 The Nature and Extent of Child Labour**

In many parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America, millions of children toil long hours for no pay or very low wages (Groostart and Kanbur, 1996). However, the situation and conditions under which these children work as well as the types of works done are also different. For example, in countries such as India and Nigeria, children combine school and work (Dyorough, 1986). In Jakarta, Indonesia, one third of the working children are said to be domestic workers while in Haiti children as young as 8 years go out to take employment (Musungu, 1997). In Thailand, about 400, 000 children are reported to drop out of school every year in order to work (Gill, 1999). In Malawi, child labour is said to be common in commercial agriculture in general and more specifically in tobacco and tea estates. In South

Africa, child labour is common in the agricultural sector in general and in commercial agriculture in particular. In Tanzania, child labour is common in selected areas like, rubber, clove, green algae (seaweed), coffee and sugar-cane plantations. In Zimbabwe, child labour is common in both the peasant farming and the large-scale farming sectors etc. (FKE, August 1996). In Congo, children aged between 5- 14 work in copper and cobalt mines. In Ghana, about 43% of all children aged 5-14 work in Agriculture, fishing, urban areas, artisan mining and domestic services child porters, known as *kayaye*, children also work in religious servitude known as *trokosi* (literally: wife of a god); ( Clerk S, Smith M. and Wild F. 2008). In Madagascar, about 58% of children aged between 5-9 are working in small scale mine, salt mining, agriculture mainly in the production of vanilla, tea, cotton, cocoa, copra (dried meat of coconut), sisal, shrimp harvest and fishing ,quarry work, gem and gold ore collection (United States Report, 2010) In Morocco, about 150,000 children aged 5-14 are working in agriculture, street and young girls known as *petites bonnes* (little maids), work in domestic servants including involuntary servitude, long hours without breaks, physical, verbal and sexual abuse, selling cigarettes, begging, shining shoes, washing cars and working as porters and packers in ports (UN report, 2010). Rwanda has about 400,000 child workers of these, about 120,000 are involved in the worst forms of child labour and 60,000 are child domestic workers (ILO Report, 2010). In Zambia, about 33% of children aged 5-14 work in agriculture which include cotton plantations, tobacco, tea, coffee and charcoal, 98% in mining, fishing, child trafficking (United Nations Report, 2010).

In Kenya, the middle and high class mainly do employment of children. Child labour also thrives in the rural areas where agriculture is the major economic activity. Children out of school are employed as casual in tea, *miraa* (Khat), coffee, tobacco or sisal farms (Njeru and Njoka, 2001); Muturi, 1994 and (Onyango, 1989), Streets (Zani, 1993). Child labour is also a problem in tobacco growing areas. In their study Njeru and Njoka (2001), found out that children dropped out of school at certain times of the year to work on tobacco in Mbeere County. Similarly, Goldsmith (1995) observes that child labour is rampant in Meru and especially in *miraa* growing areas of Meru County. In these areas, children work but the payment is done to their parents. In Murang'a County, children as young as 7 years old are collected from their homes by use of Lorries in the morning to go and work in coffee plantations and are brought back in the evenings (Kagunye, 1999).

Child labour is also a growing problem in the Western region of Kenya. In Kisii County, children work in the stone carving industries to supplement the family income. According to Muthoga (1999), stone carving in the region has contributed to high primary school dropout. In Nyanza, children are found working in sugar cane, tea plantations, fishing industry, and along the shores of Lake Victoria (Ondogo, 2011). In Muhoroni sugar-belt, there are many children in plantations weeding or loading canes into trucks. Adagala noted that children as young as seven (7) years were working in sugarcane firms while some were engaged in quarrying. In the mining areas, children, particularly boys dropped out of schools to engage in mining (Adagala, 2011).

According to Okoth (2011) the situation is worse when children are orphans. The children (orphans) are mistreated by their guardians and are forced to perform causal work. Okoth noted that "poverty was the main problem as some of the children come from extremely poor families, while others are from child headed families". Ondogo (2011) concurs that poverty was the main cause of child labour in the region. Statistics indicate that child labour is common in many places in Nyanza namely; Kisumu, Bondo, Rarieda, Nyamira, Kuria West, Gucha South, Ugenya, Homa Bay, Kisii Central and Suba as the most hit areas. It was observed that in Nyanza, cases of abandonment, physical assault, neglect and child labour was rampant. It was noted that, in early 2011 alone, more than 8,000 of these cases were reported, with 2,000 of them being neglect cases (East African Standard, May 7, 2011). On the beaches along the Lake Victoria region Siaya, Kisumu and Homabay counties many children dropped out of schools to engage in fishing. Girls engaged in prostitution or fish trading. With the high rate of HIV/AIDs in fishing communities, there are many orphans and families headed by children, forcing youngsters to engage themselves in economic activities at tender ages (Soti, 2011).

## **2.5 Factors contributing to child labour along Sori beach**

Scholars like (Badiwala, 1998, Kayongo-Male and Walji, 1984) noted that the main cause of child labour as being poverty. Others assert that working children provide for their poor families as a source of livelihood. Child labour has also been associated with changing lifestyles in a capitalist economy (Nyaoga, 1984). Other causes of child labour include broken families, parental ignorance on the dangers of child labour, rigid traditions and the high cost of formal education, rural-urban migration, HIV/AIDs pandemic, intra- ethnic violence and peers influence (Kagunye, 1999 and

Child labour is contributed due to school organization. Boyden and Bequele, (1988) point out that one of the most serious problems in many countries is the high dropout rate and the poor quality of education. Teachers may be poorly trained, poorly prepared and overworked for instance Free Primary Education in Kenya. Many schools do not have an adequate infrastructure and the curriculum may be out of touch with the local needs and aspirations. The school may also be at complete variance with the resources and skill requirements of the labour market. Sometimes shortage of schools and these may be too far for the child to attend. These weaknesses in education may be an added incentive for parents to send their children to work, rather than to school especially given that most schools expenses are extremely high.

Rapid rural-to-urban migration is another factor associated with the increasing rate of child labour in urban areas of Kenya. Families leave the severity of agricultural working conditions for cities in search of economic opportunities that often do not exist. This causes many families to settle in the slums under difficult living conditions, which also contributes to a growing rate of family disintegration. Most families in the rural areas are left under the headship of women who are economically marginalized. The difficult circumstances force women to engage in prostitution and also force their girl children to engage in the same. In an effort to assist their parents make ends meet, children usually find themselves in all sorts of child labour (KIPPRA, 2003).

Child labour also arises from illiteracy where some parents never went to school thus they find it very difficult to educate children since they do not know the importance of education. This causes children to be helping parents in doing home activities such as fetching firewood, water and many other activities instead of going to school. Child labour also arises from poverty where parents are not attaining basic needs or school fees for their children. The children may then decide to get employed somewhere in order to earn a living (Mwabu and Kimenyi 2003).

Child labour also comes about due to drugs, the drugs change lives of children especially those who get introduced to drugs while they are still young. They become addicted and as a result, they forget everything about school and keep themselves busy working to continue accessing drugs (NACADA 2009). There are those children who find attending school to be a very tasking activity.

HIV/AIDS pandemic has also compounded the causes of child labour. In many rural areas and urban slums, child orphans have been forced to fend for themselves after the demise of their parents. HIV/AIDS infection has been a major contributor to the vulnerability of children in Kenya. In particular, the AIDS epidemic has resulted in deaths of large numbers of adults and children. As a result, Kenya has in recent years witnessed a sharp rise in the number of AIDS orphans. Caring for these orphans is usually difficult for those staying with relatives and other community members either because of inadequate resources or lack of will to be involved. Many orphaned children are left under the care of their grandparents, who are often old and without means of support, or are left homeless after the death of their grandparents. Some of them take to the streets in search of new homes, money and food for survival. Some orphans prefer to remain in their own households without adult care. In such cases, the eldest child assumes the role of household head regardless of gender. These children engage in child labour and girls engage in commercial sex at a very early age (Mutua, Mwabu and Kimenyi 2003).

## **2.6 Factor that motivate children to engage in child labour along Sori beach**

Influence of other already working children can also be motivating factor. Influence can be exemplified by the frequency of interaction between the potential child labourer and other already working children. Knowledge of what a particular kind of work entails, received from the already working child, can be interest and encourage a non-working child to engage in that work. (Mwabu and Kimenyi,2003).

Child labour is rampant in developing countries and this can be attributed to the fact that most of these families are poor. Poverty forces children to go to work in order to supplement the little if any income from their parents (Boyden and Bequele, 1988). Children labourers are not free; their recruitment is more responsive to social obligation than to market forces. Parents depend on these earnings. They send their children to work despite knowing the disadvantages to their physical and educational well-being.

Kayongo-Male and Walji (1984) observe that children are encouraged to work in order to improve the family's socio-economic status. When wealth is unevenly distributed among families in a community, poorer children may be exploited by the better off families as cheap labourers. Agnelli (1986) shifts emphasis to the rural areas. Agnelli sees poverty and the



seemingly fewer opportunities to develop as factors that push children from rural to urban areas. Abdalla's study (1988) also supports the general assumption that child labour is readily supplied by poor families who depend on their off-spring for income. A study in Bangkok (Mendelievich, 1979) stated that children involve in child labour in order to assist parents in household economic activity, parents want their children to work, need to earn own living, better than doing nothing. Marroquine's (1988) study found that the majority of the respondent had migrated to work because of lack of economic resources within the family.

Marroquin's survey (1988) shows that child work corresponds in incidences in which father has regular employment is much lower than among those in which the father is either in sporadic (periodic) employment or is unemployed. Kayongo-Male and Walji (1984) note that the occupation has an effect on how a parent will socialize the children for example, parents with white collar jobs tend to give their children more freedom of choice than those parents working in blue collar jobs based on their experiences.

Children are motivated to child labour when influence is exemplified by the frequency of interaction between the potential child labour and other already working children. Knowledge of what a particular kind of work entails, received from the already working child, can interest and encourage a non-working child to engage in that work.

Pelter's study (1988) found that children work because of financial problems. Knowledge of what that work entails, received from the already working child can interest and encourage a non-working child to join the labour force. Although peer groups play an important role in contributing to child labour, peer group influence has received little attention by scholars. Most of the emphasis on factors that lead child to work has been put on economic factors to the detriment (loss/damage) of such social factors as group pressure.

Child labour also arises from illiteracy where some parents never went to school thus they find it very difficult to educate children since they do not know the importance of education. This causes children to be helping parents in doing home activities such as fetching firewood, water and many other activities instead of going to school. Child labour also arises from poverty where parents are not attaining basic needs or school fees for their children. The children may then decide to get employed somewhere in order to earn a living (Mwabu and Kimenyi 2003).

Other social determinants which motivate to the practice of child labour include school organization. Boyden and Bequele, (1988) point out that one of the most serious problems in many countries is the high drop-out rate and the poor quality of education. Teachers may be poorly trained, poorly prepared and overworked for instance Free Primary Education in Kenya. Many schools do not have an adequate infrastructure. The curriculum may be out of touch with the local needs and aspirations. The school may also be at complete variance with the resources and skill requirements of the labour market. There is a severe shortage of schools and sometimes these are too far for the child to attend. These weaknesses in education may be an added incentive for parents to send their children to work, rather than to school especially given that most of the schools expenses are extremely high.

### **2.7 Terms and Conditions of Service for children engaged in child labour**

Child labour brings about development problems to growing children. Children who engage in child labour often suffer from mental and physical retardation (Onyango 1989). Zani (1993) cited that mental repercussions come about because the ages at which children go out to work coincide with a period of profound change in their mental faculties.

According to Muturi (1994), child labour may endanger the child's physical health and growth especially when there is poor dieting causing retardation. Consequently children who work in agricultural related activities are likely to be affected by climatic exposure, toxic chemicals and can be hurt from shaped tools as their young skin is very delicate (Grooetart and Kanbur, 1996). In addition, children are likely to suffer from extreme fatigue as a result of heavy work. Child domestic workers are likely to be affected psychologically when they work away from home. They are likely to be subjected to physical and sexual abuse by their employers (Onyango, 1998). Children working in factories are engaged in heavy-duty work equivalent to those done by adults and this may retard their physical development. In spite of the negative consequences of child labour, it is noted that employers view children as cooperative, efficient and faithful workers. Hence, children are more likely to be exploited as cheap labour. It is therefore worth noting that if the issues are not well taken care of it can cause problems on children.

Studies have revealed that millions of children toil for long hours and in very difficult circumstances (Dyorough, 1986). The situation, conditions and the types of work they do seem to differ within countries. For example, in countries such as India and Nigeria children

work and go to school simultaneously (Dyorough, 1986). In Jakarta, Indonesia it is noted that a 1/3 of the working children are domestic workers whereas in Haiti, children as young as 8 years old go out to take up employment (Musungu, 1997). In Thailand about 400, 000 children were reported to have dropped out of school in order to work in plantations (Gill, 1999). In particular, India had been cited as a nation plagued by the problem of child labour with 60–115 million working children, in Africa the situation is the same and most children combine work and school (World Bank Report, 1998). Thus the problem of child labour is overwhelming not only in Africa but also in other developing countries and it takes many forms.

Majority of the children participating in child labour had contracted sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, from local adults and tourists. In addition to health risks, many of these children suffered from serious psychological disorders due to the prison-like conditions in which they were held, and most have lost all contact with their families. There are also cases of forced labour, in which children are loaned out to creditors to pay off family debt, have also been on the rise in Kenya (Nduati, 2007). There are other risks to which working children are exposed many are physically and psychologically ill-treated. Young girls employed as domestic servants may well be among the most exploited children of all. They are sometimes obliged to work very long hours, deprived of family contact, schooling, leisure, emotional support and social interaction. They are also frequently subjected to beatings, insults and sexual abuse.

According to the Federation of Kenya Employers, (1996) study, children in fishing encounter many dangers. These include, maltreatment in various forms, contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, malaria, commercial sexual exploitation, teenage pregnancy, lack of access to education and health care. The greatest danger to these children lies in the potential of being drowned accidentally or through ignorance. They dive perilously to the bottom of lakes without safety gear to retrieve fishing nets entangled in aquatic weeds and underwater debris.

Child prostitution is increasingly widespread, particularly among girls. It has been tolerated if not actually encouraged by those responsible for promoting the lucrative business of international tourism. The situation is becoming even more serious as children are being sold and smuggled secretly across national frontiers for the world sex market. They are often held in prison-like conditions separated from their families in remote. But working children are

also engaged in other high-risk sectors such as underground mining, and exposed to dangerous chemical products and mechanical equipment in industry and in agriculture, usually without any problem is compounded by the fact that many millions of working children are exposed to serious health and safety hazards. The nature of these hazards varies, from one sector to another. Considerable public indignation has been aroused by cases of sexual exploitation of children and by the growth of child pornography, the dissemination of which is facilitated by new information technologies such as Internet (FKE, 1996).

The number of hours that children have to work each day is an important indicator of the gravity of the child labour problem. Up to a half of all working children in developing countries drop out of school or have never gone to school. Those who attempt to combine schooling with work are faced with a severe handicap, since above a certain threshold work has a detrimental effect on children's ability to learn. Even though precise data are hard to come by, there can be no doubt, that for most working children, hours of work are in excess of any reasonable threshold, which affect their educational performance, and consequently reduces their prospects of escaping from the poverty trap into which most of them are born (Nduati, 2007).

Child's participation in the labour force clearly reduces the potential for schooling and educational development. Given the low education and skills content of many jobs in which working children are involved, the possibilities of acquiring remunerative and satisfying skills becomes still more remote. Thus children find themselves locked in unskilled, low paying, unpleasant and unsafe working conditions and thus permanently disadvantaged in the labour market (Mendelievich, 1979)

Mental repercussions come about because the age at which a child begins work, coincides with a period of profound mental change in the child. Involvement in child labour does not allow the normal needs and tendencies of puberty and adolescence to be satisfied. They are instead converted into a premature "pseudo"- maturity. This has a permanent limiting and disturbing effect on the psychology of the child. When the child becomes an adult he/she cannot fully comprehend the adult world. This, coupled with his inadequate general education, restricts his ability to make significant contribution to the society in which he lives (Mendelievich, 1979). The other alarming feature of child labour is that where the child is separated from his family and works away from it for long periods. Little attention is paid

to these children and they are inadequately supervised. Consequently, they lead a semi-independent life from an early age (Mendelievich, 1979).

Child labour has the profound effect of temporarily alleviating family poverty and increasing production, but it also had a definite impact on the child him/herself. Kayongo-Male and Walji, (1984) noted that a child could be alienated from his labour if it has a negative impact on him. Alienation from work results largely from the use of labour only as a means to an end rather than end in itself. Work in itself should have some value outside the wage it brings. A child who spends little time integrating with other children may become introverted and if he is criticized often, he may hate work. Child labour has both short term and long term effect on the child although there may be immediate economic advantage which may be necessary and useful, and not forgetting that the child may enjoy his participation in the labour activity, it is important to emphasize both the short term and essentially the long term effects on the child.

Some of the conditions under which children work include excessive heat, damp and dusty conditions are likely to create a milieu (environment) which favours the transmission of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and rheumatic fever. Gastro-intestinal diseases thrive and spread in the absence of clean water and inadequate toilets facilities. The child labourers are exposure to chemicals and toxic substances such as lead mercury and benzene can have serious health consequences on the child (ILO Report, 1983).

In the developing world, child labour largely manifests itself as a necessary evil. On one hand, are the glaring dangers, risks and opportunity costs the children face while on the other hand are the compelling cultural, social, economic and political factors that create a fertile ground upon which child labour blossoms. Unfortunately, although child labour may increase households' income and probability of survival in the short-run, in the long-run, it perpetuates household poverty through lower human capital to the extent that children compete with unskilled adults for the same jobs. Child workers affect adult employment or depress adult wages depending on the setting.

In Kenya's agricultural plantations (Nduati, 2007) noted that adult workers are often denied menial jobs as the managers tend to prefer child labourers who are likely to work longer, earn less and make fewer demands. The vulnerability of children is increased by the high incidence of malnutrition and undernourishment which they experience. When children are

required to perform heavy tasks that use up scarce reserves of energy, an imbalance arises between their energy and supply, thereby weakening them further and making them less resistant to diseases (Zani, 1993)

According to Kanbargi (1988), some children suffer from eye fatigue and leg and back deformities because of continuous squatting handling chemicals, raw wool which also leads to breathing problems and lung infections. Extreme working conditions could lead to permanent mental problems due to constant depressions. Moreover, children are not covered medically for accidents at work. When workers are sick, they have to treat themselves because their companions and employers are busy and have neither time nor the inclination to provide assistance. Marroquin's (1988) study revealed that the majority of the respondents relied on self-cure and in rare cases, did the employer provide medical attention.

Zani (1993) in reference to child labour in Mombasa noted that young children often work on the streets hawking bananas, biscuits and other food stuff as vehicles pass through the town. These children were noted to be working until late in the night thereby limiting their access to formal education and proper physical growth. Scholars have also argued that child labourers are denied the joy of childhood by being sent to work instead of playing and engagement of developmental activities (Kagunye, 1999; Muturi, 1989; Nyaoga, 1984). In some cases children are lured into commercial sex and become exposed to hazardous and abusive environments including living in unsafe conditions, lack of shelter, food, clean drinking water, clothing and are denied basic child's rights like education and health care. Sometimes these children are exposed to dangerous bodily injuries through assaults and sexual exploitation, which results to contracting HIV/AIDS virus, unwanted pregnancies and sometimes death. These children sometimes find themselves in conflict with the law engaging in illegal trafficking of drugs or other contrabands (Oriedo, 2010).

In urban areas children are employed in the informal sector as domestic helpers, in street begging and hawking. Child prostitution and other forms of child exploitation is known to exist in major towns of Kenya like Mombasa, Malindi and Nairobi where young girls of below 18 years are involved as commercial sex workers Mwandawiro and Maghang (1999). In rural areas like Nyanza, child labour is most common in the sugar cane plantations around Muhoroni, Miwani, Kibos, Sony and the various fishing beaches along the shores of Lake

Victoria. In Migori County most children are employed in fishing on the many beaches that dot the Lake Victoria shoreline Onyango, (1998).

## **2.8 Role of parents/guardians regarding incidence of child labour**

Family violence manifests itself in the form of physical and verbal abuse, silence, constant threats of death and financial neglect where family violence leads to break-up of the marriage, children are forced to engage in child labour as a way of fending for themselves or assisting their mothers to finance household expenditure. Some girls are forced by their mothers to be employed as maids. Boys work as hawkers and car washers. In cases where physical violence leads to the death of a spouse, mostly the mother, the children are left orphaned or their fathers and in such cases chances of children continuing with schooling or having adequate food at home are limited. Therefore, some children take to the streets in search of greener pastures while others look for alternative ways to make ends meet Mutua, Mwabu and Kimenyi (2003).

Intra-ethnic violence, cattle rustling and banditry have also created an exodus from rural areas into towns. Families which have been affected by this form of violence have been reduced to beggars and their children made vulnerable to malnutrition eventually ending up in child labour. Intra-ethnic clashes have led to many other forms of child labour including child prostitution, domestic house-helps, among others as a result children assumes duties of parents. KIPPRA, (2006)

Influence of other already working children can also be contributing factor. Influence can be exemplified by the frequency of interaction between the potential child labourer and other already working children. Knowledge of what a particular kind of work entails, received from the already working child, can be interest and encourage a non-working child to engage in that work. (Mwabu and Kimenyi,2003). Adults engage children to work partly because of their gullibility vulnerability and inadequate negotiating skills and therefore easy to exploit. Many children seek jobs because of harsh conditions at home. Girls face more risks because they constitute the most domestic workers Mutie and Muasya, (2006).

Child labour is rampant in developing countries and this can be attributed to the fact that most of these families are poor. Poverty forces children to go to work in order to supplement the little if any income from their parents (Boyden and Bequele, 1988). Children labourers are not free; their recruitment is more responsive to social obligation than to market forces.

Parents depend on these earnings. They send their children to work despite knowing the disadvantages to their physical and educational well-being.

Boyden and Bequele (1988) pointed out that one of the most serious problems in many countries is the high dropout rate and the poor quality of education. Child labour is rampant in developing countries and this can be attributed to the fact that most of these families are poor. Poverty forces parents to allow their children to go work in order to supplement the little if any income for their families (Boyden and Bequele, 1988). Children workers are not free; their recruitment is more responsive to social obligation than to market forces. Parents depend on these earnings. They send their children to work despite knowing the disadvantages to their physical and educational wellbeing.

Kayongo-Male and Walji (1984) observe that children are encouraged to work in order to improve the family's socio-economic status. When wealth is unevenly distributed among families in a community, poorer children may be exploited by the better off families as cheap labourers. Agnelli (1986) shifts emphasis to the rural areas and sees poverty as the seemingly fewer opportunities to develop as factors that push children from rural to urban areas. Abdalla's study (1988) also supports the general assumption that child labour is readily supplied by poor families who depend on their off-spring for income.

Marroquin's survey (1988) shows that child labour corresponding to incidences in which father has regular employment is much lower than among those in which the father is either in sporadic employment or is unemployed. Kayongo-Male and Walji (1984) noted that occupation has an effect on how a parent will socialize the children for example; parents with white collar jobs tend to give their children more freedom of choice than those parents working in blue collar jobs based on their experiences. Children are motivated to engage in child labour when influence is exemplified by the frequency of interaction between the potential child labour and other already working children. Knowledge of what a particular kind of work entails, received from the already working child, can interest and encourage a non-working child to engage in that work.

## **2.9 International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention**

Under International Law, child labour in itself is not prohibited, in recognition of the potential benefits of some forms of work and of the realities that require many children to enter the workforce to support their own or their families' basic needs. International treaties address the circumstances under which children may work and require states to set minimum



age for employment. In addition, children who work do not give up the basic human rights that all children are guaranteed; in particular, they continue to enjoy the right to education. The ILO Conventions applicable to the employment of children and young person's mainly specify the standard minimum ages, define conditions of night work, medical examination, and underground work.

Section 9 (1) of ILO Convention stipulates that "Every child shall be protected from economic exploitation and any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development" (ILO-IPEC, 2003).

### **2.9.1 African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child**

African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child recognizing that the child, due to the needs of his physical and mental development requires particular care with regard to health, physical, mental, moral and social development, and requires legal protection in conditions of freedom, dignity and security,

Article 15 (1999) of African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child stipulates that every child shall be protected from all forms of economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development.

Article 16: (1999) of African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child stipulates that; States Parties to the present Charter shall take specific legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and especially physical or mental injury or abuse, neglect or maltreatment including sexual abuse, while in the care of the child.

Article 17: (1999) of African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child stipulates that every child accused or found guilty of having infringed penal law shall have the right to special treatment in a manner consistent with the child's sense of dignity and worth and which reinforces the child's respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of others.

### **2.9.2 Constitutional Rights of Children**

Children's rights are the human rights of children with particular attention to the rights of special protection and care afforded to the young, including their right to association with both biological parents, human identity as well as the basic needs for food, universal state-paid education, health care and criminal laws appropriate for the age and development of the child. Interpretations of children's rights range from allowing children the capacity for

autonomous action to the enforcement of children being physically, mentally and emotionally free from abuse, the rights to care and nurturing (Wikipedia).

Rights of Children 53 (1) (2010) stipulates that child has the right:

- (a) To a name and nationality from birth
- (b) To free and compulsory basic education
- (c) To basic nutrition, shelter and health care
- (d) To be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence inhuman treatment and punishment and hazardous or exploitative labour
- (e) To parental care and protection, which includes equal responsibility of the mother and father to provide for the child, whether they are married to each other or not; and
- (f) 1. Not to be detained, except as a measure of last resort, and when detained, to be held;
  - (i) For the shortest appropriate period of time and
  - (ii) Separate from adults and conditions that take account of the child's sex and age
- 2. A child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child

### **2.9.3 Children's Act, Cap 141 (2010)**

Section 10 (1) of the Children Act (2010) states that every child shall be protected from economic exploitation and any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. Section 10 (2) of the Children Act (2010) states that "No child shall take part in hostilities or be recruited in armed conflicts, and where armed conflict occurs, respect for and protection and care of children shall be maintained in accordance with the law. Section 10 (3) of the Children Act (2010) states that, It shall be the responsibility of the Government to provide protection, rehabilitation care, recovery and re-integration into normal social life for any child who may become a victim of armed conflict or natural disaster. Section 10 (4) of the Children Act (2010) states that, The Minister shall make regulations in respect of periods of work and legitimate establishments for such work by children above the age of sixteen years. Section 10 (5) of the Children Act (2010) states that

In this Act child labour refers to any situation where a child provides labour in exchange for payment and includes:

- (a) Any situation where a child provides labour as an assistant to another person and his labour is deemed to be the labour of that other person for the purposes of payment;
- (b) Any situation where a child's labour is used for gain by any individual or institution whether or not the child benefits directly or indirectly; and
- (c) Any situation where there is in existence a contract for services where the party providing the services is a child whether the person using the services does so directly or by agent.

#### **2.9.4 Employment Act Cap 226 (2010)**

The Employment means employment of a child in a situation where the child provides labour as an assistant to another person and his labour is deemed to be the labour of that other person for the purpose of payment. The child's labour is used for gain by any person or institution where or not the child benefits directly or indirectly. The Employment Act (2010) defines the child labour as "slavery, child prostitution, illicit activities or work likely to injure the health of juvenile ages below 18 years. The law does prohibit all types of child labour that are hazardous, exploitive, or would keep children under 18 years from attending school.

The Employment Act (2010) prohibits forced child labour, slavery, and servitude. The law also prohibits the defilement of a child, committing indecent acts with a child, promoting sexual offenses with a child, child trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, promoting child sex tourism, child prostitution, and child pornography. Penalties for violations include fines and/or imprisonment of up to life in prison, depending on the type of offense and the age of the child, but the minimum penalty for child trafficking is a fine and 10 years of imprisonment. The minimum penalty for sex trafficking is a fine, 15 years of imprisonment, or both. Employment Act 53 (1) states that no person shall employ a child in any activity which constitutes worst form of child labour. This act requires that the Minister shall, in consultation with the Board, make a regulations declaring any work, activity or contract of service harmful to the health, safety or morals of a child and subsection (1) shall apply to such work, activity or contract of service (Employment Act, 2010).

Employment Act 58 (1) (2010) states that no person shall employ a child who has not attained the age of eighteen years whether gainfully or not otherwise in any undertaking. This act requires that a child of between thirteen years of age and sixteen years of age may be employed to perform light work that is not likely to be harmful to their health or development. Employment Act 59 (I) (2010) subject to section 60 states that no person shall employ a child in an industrial undertaking between the hours of 6.30 pm and 6.30 a.m. (2) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (I), a person may employ a male young person in cases of emergencies which could not have been controlled or foreseen, and which interfere with the normal working of the industrial and which are not of a periodical nature. (3) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (1), the Minister may, after consultation with the Board, authorize an employer in writing to employ a young person for a specific period of the night subject to such conditions as the Minister may determine.

Employment Act 61 (2010) states that an employer who employs a child shall keep and maintain a register containing; age, date of birth, date of entry and leaving the employment. Employment Act 62 (2010) stipulates that, an authorized officer may require a child in employment to be medically examined at any time during the period of the child's employment. Employment Act 64 (1) (2010) stipulates that a person who employs, engages, or uses a child in an industrial undertaking in contravention of the provisions of this part, commits an offence. Or a person who uses a child in any activity constituting worst form of child labour commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both.

Employment Act 65 (1) (2010) stipulates that if a child who is killed , dies or suffers any bodily injury in consequence of his employer having contravened any provision of this part, the employer shall, in addition to any other penalty, be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both and the whole or any part of the fine may be applied for the benefit of the injured child or his family or otherwise as the Minister may direct.

(2) Stipulates that an employer shall not be liable under subsection (1):

- (a) In the case of injury to health unless the injury was caused directly by the contravention; and

- (b) If a charge against him under this part in respect of the act or default by which the death or injury was caused has been heard and dismissed before the injury occurred.

## **2.10 Theoretical Framework**

This study utilized two major theories, the Social Class theory and the Division of Labour theory. Division of labour theory guided this particular study.

### **2.10.1 Social Class Theory**

The concept of Social class has a long history and a phenomenon of industrial world. According to Mazarous (1971), industrialization was a consequence of transition of societies from traditional to modern (advanced) ones. Modernization is brought about by industrialization or a shift from traditional mode of production (agriculture) to manufacturing or large-scale production of and services Goldthorpe, (1965) Industrialization is not only brought about by several interrelated factors but has diverse and sometimes harmful consequences Maszrous, (1971). The shift from agriculture to formal employment implies a transformation of societies from reliance in subsistence farming to wage labour. Along with these changes comes new lifestyles, change in value systems and also emphasize on capital investment.

According to historical materialism theorists the world has experienced four modes/forms of production Mwachofi, (1991). The first was the simple community production which is necessary for production of products. The second mode of production is slave mode of production, this is where we have the landlord and the slaves. The next mode was feudal system, which was more or less like the slave mode of production. The later was the capitalist mode of production, which is still existence in the world today. In this mode of production goods are exchanged with money.

According to Karl Marx, (1966) the capitalist mode of production has brought great inequalities in the world and untold suffering for the masses who are the majority of the population. In the above modes of production (slave, feudal and capitalists), society is divided into “non labouring owners and the labouring non owners” Mwochofi, (1991). These are class societies and each of the group (non-labouring owners and labouring non owners relate differently to the means of production i.e. tools and implements of work (means of labour). One class owns the means of production while the other toils. Thus the production

process generates the likelihood of the producer that of the non-producers or owners and some surplus for further development of the forces of production. This is only possible because the producer receives only what is necessary for his bare reproduction while the owner appropriates the rest. Hence, there is exploitation of labour or appropriation of surplus. The system is sustained by the social relations of production, which in turn sustained by the myth created by the ruling class to justify and rationalize the status quo called the dominant ideology Lefebvre, (1968).

Kenya's mode of production is dependent capitalism because it is tied to the international monopoly capitalistic system in unequal relationships. Prior to the establishment of this mode of production, communities had patriarchal or simple commodity mode of production, which had neither the primitive communal mode nor the slave or the feudal one. Under the patriarchal mode of production ownership was by household unit or the family. The social relations of production were marked by gender and age so that who performed which task, wielded which power and how surplus was accumulated/disposed off, all depended on the ideology of provision of the likelihood for all members. The ideal was service and commitment whereas inequality was rationalized by age and gender.

Upon colonization the capitalistic mode of production was introduced. It imposed community exchange and international division of labour most suited to its own needs. It also aimed at getting overseas products at prices obtained through extra economic means and at prices neither determined by demand or supply nor by costs persisted to the present as characterized by inefficient production forces. In this case, producers have no say in the production (Hoogvelt, 1982). This led to dependent capitalism, which has persisted to present as characterized by inefficient production forces.

### **2.10.2 The Social Division of Labour Theory**

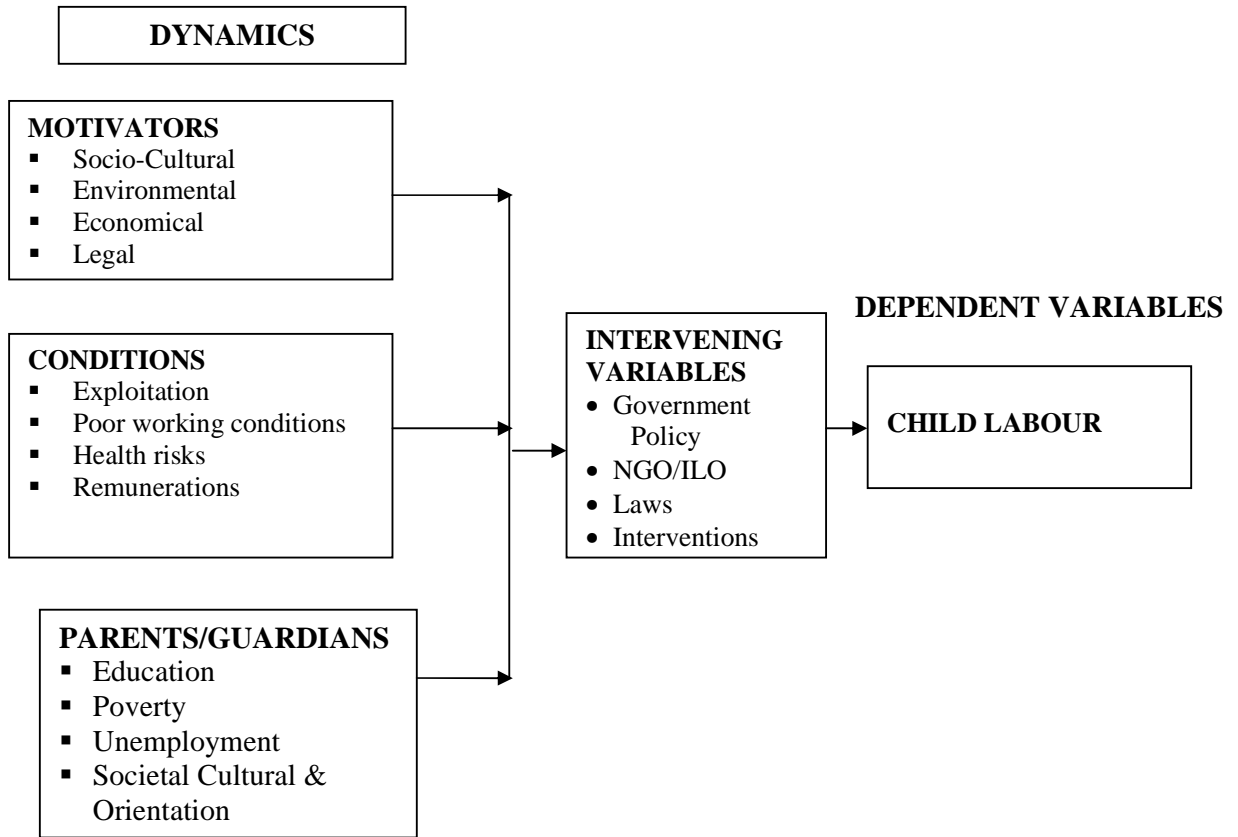
Division of Labour Theory postulates that the family as a social system has many functioning parts and each part has a role to play. Children are part and parcel of the family system and need to contribute to the family division of labour. To understand the phenomenon of child labour as part of the families' obligations the study adopted the social division of labour Theory. Adam Smith founded the social division of labour theory in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Social division of labour is a characteristic at both the traditional and the modern societies.

According to Durkheim (1966), the division of labour denotes the role each member plays in the family. Children are part and parcel of the family and hence have the obligation to participate in the family chores. In the traditional Kenyan societies children in preparation for adults' roles were allocated duties by their gender (Kayongo-Male and Walji, 1984). This imparted society's values and responsibility in adult life. There were clear-cut roles for both male and female and this was accepted without questioning. Children were also allocated duties by their age and sex (Kayongo-Male and Walji, 1984). Children were not overworked, had time to play and seek guidance from their elders (Onyango, 1989). Today the notion of the family division of labour is conflict laden. There are no clear distinctions between children's work, which has a socialization function, and work that can be termed as child labour. Most often children are overworked and abused in places of work. This is especially the case when children are engaged in wage labour (Zani, 1993).

At home children may be forced to perform the household chores by themselves while their mothers are engaged in some income generating activities (Zani, 1993). Today new lifestyles and the demands of living forces children to do all sorts of works in order to take care of themselves or so that they can contribute to the family income. Whereas the social division of labour theory underscores the fact that children need to contribute to family labour. It is at the same time helps us to understand the situations and circumstance that force children to contribute to family income by working for wages.

## 2.11 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

### INDEPENDENT VARIABLES



Source: Researcher 2013



## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

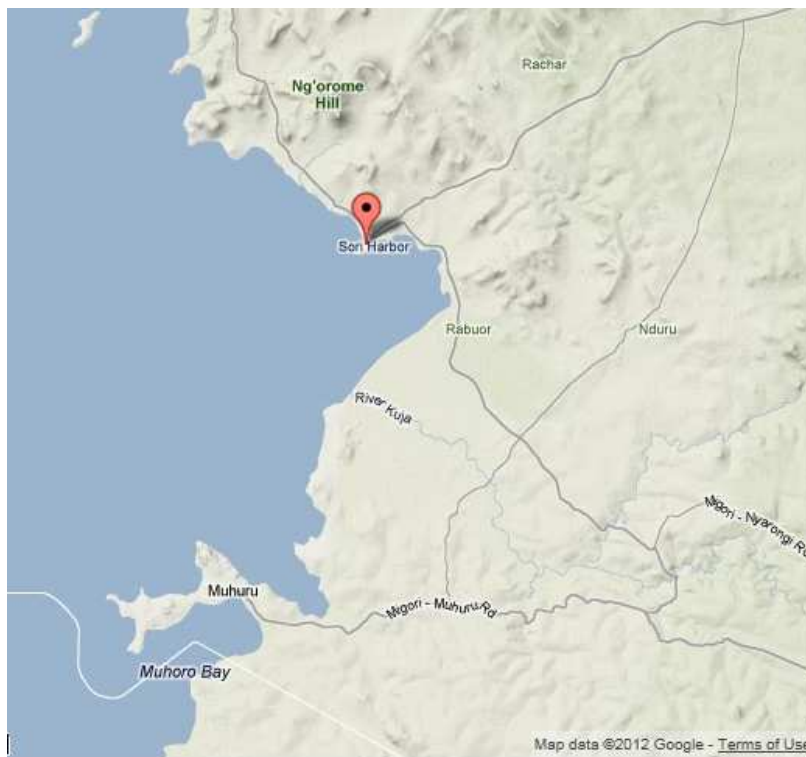
This chapter presents the procedures and methods used in conducting the study. These include site description, research design, target population, Sample size, Sampling and Sample selection, Unit of analysis, unit of observations, Methods of Data Collection, Instruments of Data Collection, Validity and reliability, Research Ethics and Data Analysis.

Due to the underage status of children, the researcher sought consent to interview children from area Assistant Chief and beach administrators.

#### 3.2 Site Description

This study was carried out in Sori beach (*see map below*) in Karungu Division in Migori County. Sori beach is one of the oldest beaches in Migori County. Sori beach has a population of 10,117 and a population density of 665/km<sup>2</sup> (National Bureau of Statistics, 2009 census). It lies at about 1200m above the sea level along the shore of Lake Victoria at an average elevation of 1319 meters above the sea level (GoK, 2012).

**Figure 3.1: Map of Sori Beach**



Migori County (*see map below*) is one of the Counties in the former larger Nyanza Province covering an area of 21505 sq Km. It was carved from the former South Nyanza district in 1992. It borders Homa Bay and Kisii Counties to the north; Gucha and Trans Mara Counties to the east; and to the south it borders Kuria and Republic of Tanzania. Migori County has various divisions namely: Suba East, Suba West, Nyatike, Karungu, Muhuru, Uriri, Rongo and Awendo. It has twenty-nine cotton, maize and a variety of other food crops. Rainfall patterns in the county vary, ranging from 700mm to 1800 mm annually, with the long rains occurring between March and May, while the short rains fall during the October-December period. The Lake shores of Nyatike, Karungu and Muhuru Bay divisions experience unreliable and poorly distributed rainfall. Temperatures show mean minimum of 17<sup>0</sup>C and maximum of 20<sup>0</sup>C, with high humidity and a potential evaporation of 1800 and 2000 mm per year. (GoK, 2009). (29) locations and fifty three (53) sub-locations. The area has an average population of 254,709 and a density of 291 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. The major urban centres include Migori, Sori and Muhuru Bay.

The altitude ranges from 1,135 metres at the shores of Lake Victoria in Muhuru Bay, Nyatike and Karungu division to 1,700 metres in Suba West with several hills and plains stretching from 20 to 70 km along the lakeshore. Some of the hills dotting the county landscape are *Nyakune (4,625m)*, *Ogengo (5,300m)*, *god Kwer (1,420 m)* and *Nyabisawa (1,489m)* in Suba west. The climate is of a mild inland equatorial type, modified by relief, altitude and proximity to the lake. It favours the cultivation of Fishing along Lake Victoria (*see appendix 3*) has mainly been practiced in small scale using boats (*see photos 1 and 4*). However, in the recent times there has been some attempt at commercial fishing. Commercial fishing involves the use of huge and motorized fishing vessels (*see photo 2*) employing modern technologies to locate and catch fish.

**Figure 3.2: Map of Migori County Showing Various Divisions**



Source: Google map 2012

### **3.3 Research Design**

This study adopted descriptive study design. According to Kothari (2004) descriptive studies are concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual or of a group or a situation. It further concerns itself with specific predictions, with narration of facts and characteristics concerning an individual, group or situation. Descriptive design allows the researcher to generate or acquire accurate information concerning the study. This study was concerned with documenting the concerns of child labourers, the patterns of tasks children were employed in, how they were recruited, their experiences of labour and stakeholders views about their problem.

### **3.4 Target Population**

Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) define target population as that population where the researcher wants to generalize the results of the study or a real or hypothetical set of people,

events or objects to which a research data wishes to generalize the results of the research. According to National Census (2009), Sori beach has a population of about 10,117. However, records from beach leaders indicate that about 520 children were engaged in child labour at the beach while about 80 employers were known to have engaged children in some form of contractual work. In this study the target population comprised child labourers' employers of child labourers, Parents and selected key informants such as beach and government leaders.

### **3.5. Sample size**

The sample size was 90 child labourers (both boys and girls), 40 parents/guardians, 15 employers, and 8 Key Informants.

#### **3.5.1 Sampling and Sample selection**

Sampling is defined as the seeking of knowledge or information about population by examining/observing part of the population (sample) in order to extend the findings to the entire population (Singleton, et, 1988).

According to Julian (1968) a sample design is the empirical representation of the theoretical universe in which one is interested in. In this study, purposive sampling was used as this allows a researcher to use cases that require information or characteristics with respect to the objectives of the study Mugenda, (2003). Purposive sampling was suitable because the researcher selected a particular category of people i.e child labourers, child labourer employers and key informants who had information relevant to the study.

The study used purposive sampling to identify key informants and employers. Accidental Sampling was used in the selection of the child labourers. Since it was difficult to identify children involved in child labour from those involved in households, it was imperative to accidentally sample children found in different tasks along the beach. Their parents were selected purposively following directions by the child labourers.

### **3.6 Unit of Analysis**

Unit of analysis is who or what is to be analyzed in the research (Singleton, et, 1993), It is the social entities whose social characteristics are the focus of the study (Baker, 1988). The unit of analysis were child labourers, child labourer employers, government representatives, local and beach leaders.

### **3.7 Unit of observation**

Unit of observation refers to the source (s) of primary data (information) about the issue under investigation. The units of observation were; households, employers, tasks performed by children and the processes of engaging children.

### **3.8 Methods and Tools of Data Collection**

The study used both primary and secondary sources of data. A primary source of data involves collection of data in a natural setting. Primary data was obtained from child labourers, employers, key informants and parents/guardians. Secondary data was obtained from published and un-published data and existing studies such as thesis, journal, magazines, Newspapers, government policy documents and electronic websites. This study used both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection.

#### **3.8.1 Key Informant Interview (KII)**

Key Informant Interviews were conducted on specific key resourceful persons in the community who were understood to be having valuable information regarding the topic of study. In this study, about eight (8) were the Key Informants among them Chiefs, Assistant Chief, Teachers, beach administrators ( Chairman and secretary), Fishery Officers, Clan Elders and Health Officers were interviewed.

#### **3.8.2 Household Interviews**

This involved the administrative of questionnaires to generate quantitative and qualitative data. The questionnaire had pre-set questions. The questionnaires were administered face to face by the researcher which lasted about an hour each session.

#### **3.8.3 Observation**

Observation is a method in which a researcher takes part in the daily activities, interactions, and events performed by the target group. In this study, the researcher observed child labourers working very late in bars, hotels and food joints, cleaning fish, and repairing of fish nets. During the various data collection visits, the researcher also witnessed many children rowing boats into the lake for fishing expeditions.

#### **3.8.4 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)**

Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with 3 groups. This study used 3 groups comprising the youth, Men and Women to solicit information on their view regarding child labour. In each group discussion ten (10) participants took part. Each group discussion took

an average of one hour. The researcher facilitated the discussion while the research assistant took notes.

Research Tools refer to the instruments the researchers use in performing research operations. This study used the following instruments.

### **3.8.5 Questionnaire**

The questionnaire was used to cover the background of the respondents i.e. age, gender, level of education, marital status and other related issues. In this study three (3) sets of questionnaires were administered to; employers of child labourers, child labourers and parents.

### **3.8.6 Key Informant Interview guide**

Key Informants were interviewed using a list of discussion topics. The topics included; employment of children, knowledge of the law on children, employment conditions, recruitment of children and terms of service.

### **3.8.7 Focused Group Discussion guide**

Focused groups are a powerful means to evaluate services or test new ideas. It is a form of qualitative research in which the respondents are asked about their attitude towards a product, service, concept, ideas. FGD guide had a list of ten discussion topics. The researcher facilitated the discussion and made notes. The guide had the following topics; fishing on the beach, employment of children, family life, factors that push children to get employed, roles of parents, terms of service, how children are recruited and what can be done to eradicate the phenomenon.

### **3.8.8 Observation checklist**

This is a way of gathering data by watching behaviour, events or noting physical characteristics in their natural setting. In this study, the researcher observed different tasks child labourers were involved in including working up to very late in bars, hotels, and other fishing activities. The researcher did the observation while the research assistant took down notes on actual tasks and activities performed by child labourers.

### **3.8.9 Photography**

Photography was instrumental in complementing other methods of data collection particularly in relation to providing the visual effects of work and the work context. In this

study the researcher captured various scenes in photographs to help appreciate the environmental conditions.

### **3.9 Validity and reliability**

Validity aim is to ensure that the information gathered was valid and the reliability of the instruments used. Validity establishes whether the instrument content is measuring what it is supposed to measure (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). Reliability is the measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials. The questionnaire and interview schedules were checked by two peers from the University of Nairobi who checked them for validity and reliability.

### **3.10 Research Ethics**

This is about being objective, honest and careful during all moments. It was about educating and ensuring the participants of their rights about confidentiality and how the results of the study would be reported (Cohen, et al., 2007). The study endeavored to extend adequate confidentiality to participants due to the sensitivity of the topic. According to Kvale (1996), confidentiality implies that private data identifying the subject is not reported.

In accordance to this standard rule, the researcher informed the respondents at Sori beach about the purpose of the study, where results would be published and that their participation would be absolutely voluntary. They were not to answer any question if they did not want to. The respondents were not coerced into completing questionnaire as they are subjects and not objects (Cohen, et al., 2007)

### **3.11 Data Analysis**

Data analysis is the ordering and breaking down of data into constituent parts in order to obtain answers to research questions. It is the way with which to understand, interpret and use data collected and subsequently to aid in reporting of the information and knowledge conceived from the collected data (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). In this study data analysis started with editing and checking of gathered raw data for accuracy, usefulness and completeness. Coding involved corroborating findings from the questionnaire, Key Informants interview and the focused group discussions. Data from the field was fed into the computer, analyzed by use of Descriptive statistics. Analysis was done by use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The data was then tabulated in tables and charts. The researcher then discussed the findings based on the study objectives.

### **3.12 Limitations and challenges encountered in the field**

Several problems were encountered; inability of following up on all the parents/guardians or household heads responsible for the interviewed working children. Some children were staying with their employers who were always hostile to anybody who may want to know about the employment of children. Some children feared introducing the researcher to their employer for fear of losing their employment. Problems of distance were also a major barrier as some children were from other counties therefore the researcher could gain access to their parents or guardians. Limited budget made collection of data difficult as it limited the extent of interviews and areas covered. Notwithstanding, the amount of work covered brought main issues regarding child labour along the fishing beaches of Lake Victoria as set out in the research objectives.



## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the results of data analysis and makes interpretation based on the study objectives as outlined in chapter one. The chapter is divided into five major sections based on the thematic areas. The first section describes the socio-demographic characteristics of the study of child labourers, parents and employers and factors that contribute to child labour. The second section examines the factors that motivate children to engage in child labour while the third and fourth sections examine terms and conditions of service for children engaged in child labour and the role of parents/guardians regarding incidences of child labour respectively. The final section examines the preference of employers for child labour and the views about enforcement of laws regarding child labourers.

#### **4.2 Background Characteristics of children**

This section analyzes the distribution of study respondents according to background characteristics. Information was collected on socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents such as age, gender and level of education. The respondents were asked how often they attend school to which some stated that they attend irregularly while others stated that they do not attend at all. When asked whether their parents/guardians were aware that they do not attend school some answered in the affirmative. Others stated that their parents/guardians were not aware that they were not attending school implying they could have been influenced by their peers while others refused to answer fearing that the information might reach their parents/guardians who expected them to be in school. The respondents were also asked whether they seek permission from their teachers whenever they missed school. Majority stated that they do not ask for permission but get punishment wherever they attend school. Most of the guardians/parents declined to respond to this question fearing that the researcher might report them to Education Officers or government representatives (e.g. Assistant Chief in the area).

#### 4.2.1 Distribution of the child labourers' according to Socio-demographic

The socio-demographic characteristics covered gender; age and school attendance. Majority of the respondents (55.5%) were female 55.6%, while male respondents were 44.4%. In terms of age, majority of respondents were aged 15-17 years while those aged 10-14 years were 25.6%. 18.9 percent of the respondents were aged between 5-9 years. When one considers school attendance, it is evident from the findings that majority of children (58.9%) living in Sori beach were not attending school despite the implementation of free primary education and subsidized secondary education. Only 14.4 % of the respondents were attending secondary education. This is an alarming finding especially to the government. Table 4.1 gives the distribution of respondents according to socio-demographic characteristics that are used in the analysis (of the entire work) of this study.

**Table 4.1: Distribution of the child labourers according to Socio-demographic Characteristic (N=90)**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	40	44.4
Male	50	55.6
<b>Respondent's Age</b>		
5-9 years	17	18.9
10-14 years	23	25.6
15-17 years	50	55.5
<b>Attending school</b>		
Not attending	53	58.9
Primary	24	26.7
Secondary	13	14.4

#### 4.2.2 Background Characteristics of parents/guardians of child labourers

A total of ninety (90) respondents were interviewed and 25% were females while the rest 75% were males. Mean age of parents of child labourers was 50 years. Table 4.2 below presents the distribution of parents according to background characteristics.

**Table 4.2: Socio-demographic characteristics of parents (N=40)**

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	10	25
Female	30	75
<b>Respondent's Age</b>		
25-35 years	7	17.5
36-45 years	12	30.0
46-55 years	21	52.5

### 4.3 Background characteristics of employers of child labourers

A total of 15 respondents were interviewed and 26.7% were females while the rest 73.3% were males. Mean age of the employers of child labourers was 40.5 years, 60 Percent of the employers have studied up to primary level. The nature of their businesses was diverse with one respondent owning more than one business including main types of businesses were; fishing 46.7 percent, 6.7 % were in agriculture while 20 percent were employed in domestic work. Other businesses constituted 26.6%. Table 4.3 below presents the distribution of employers according to background characteristics.

**Table 4.3: Background Characteristics of Employers (N=15)**

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Employers</b>		
Men	11	73.3
Female	4	26.7
<b>Age</b>		20.0
Less than 30	3	26.7
31-40	4	53.3
41+	8	
<b>Level of Education</b>	4	26.7
No Education	9	60.0
Primary	2	13.3
Secondary		
<b>Nature of business (jobs offered)</b>	7	46.7
Fishing	1	6.7
Agriculture	3	20.0
Domestic	4	26.6
Others		
<b>Number of employees</b>	10	66.7
1-2	4	26.7
3-5	1	6.6
6		

#### 4.4 Distribution of Households with Child Labour by sex of respondents

As shown, out of 90 respondents, majority (58%) were from households involved in child labour. The results further indicate that female children (55.6%) were more likely to be involved in child labour compared to male children (44.4%). Table 4.4 below presents the distribution of households with children who were employed in Sori beach by gender.

**Table 4.4: Distribution of Households with Child Labour by sex of respondents**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Household with Child labour (%)</b>	<b>Total (N)</b>
Male	44.4	40
Female	55.6	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90</b>

### MAIN FINDINGS

#### 4.5 Factors that contribute to child labour along Sori beach

The first objective of the study sought to establish factors that contribute to the practice of child labour along Sori beach. Respondents were asked to state the main reasons that pushed them to work as child labourers. It is important to note that more than one response was possible from the children. Death or absence of either parent (38%). A number of respondents (children involved in child labour) indicated that they were either total orphans or were living with single parents. This implies that the absence of parents through death or other means is a major contributing factor to the practice of child labour.

About 31% of the respondents indicated that they engaged in child labour due to the inability of their parents/guardians to provide for their needs as individuals and the entire family needs. Others 8% indicated that they were prompted by their parents/guardians. This is probably due to the high poverty level prevailing in the community, illiteracy or outright greed on the part of parents/guardians. Other respondents (18%) indicated that they engaged in child labour to augment household income after realizing their parents/guardians were unable to adequately provide for all the requirements for the family. Household income continues to influence the decision to work.

The proportion of children who work to augment household income rises with age: boys 13% for boys aged between 5-9, 15% for ages 10-14, 17% ages 15-17. Similarly for girls, 12%

were aged between 5-9, 15% aged 10-14 and 18% aged 15-17. This is probably because older children are able to command higher wages. Some children indicated that sometimes they would go without food so they go out to look for alternative source of income to support their families. A further 10% of the respondents indicated that they engage in child labour to pay school fees for their brother/sisters. This number probably represents the school-going group and more mature category of the children interviewed. They appeared focused and were mainly forced into the circumstances by the desire to further their education. About (7%) of the respondents indicated that they engaged in child labour to support themselves and their siblings. These are probably the total orphans in the population under study although the research did not ask specific question to affirm this.

Still others engaged in child labour to imitate peers (2%). To some of these children engaging in child labour looked fashionable. The danger with this is that even those children where both parents are still alive and could provide for them involved themselves in the vice by imitating their peers who are probably forced into the problem by actual poverty or absence of parents either through death or broken marriages. A significant number 2 % of the respondents indicated that they engaged in child labour for various reasons other than those highlighted above. These reasons include: to get money for buying luxury items such as mobile phones, to get cash for pocket money, to get cash for airtime credit, cash for entertainment among others. Most of these reasons were however unsatisfactory and this represent a particular group of mischievous children. The respondents engaged in child labour because they were running away from school or home, it presented a source of easy money, lack of clear role models and lack of law enforcements and low literacy level among the community among other factors. Therefore, Poverty and death of parents were likely strong determinant of child labour. Table 4.5 below presents their responses.

**Table 4.5: Factors contributing to child labour**

Gender	Age in Years		
	5-9 (%)	10-14 (%)	15-17 (%)
<b>Boys</b>			
Prompting by parents	8	5	2
Augment household income	13	15	17
Death of parents	31	36	38
Poverty	32	34	24
Imitating peers	2	1	2
Support self	5	3	6
Pay school fees	7	5	10
Others	2	1	1
<b>Girls</b>			
Prompting by parents	7	3	4
Augment household income	12	15	18
Death of parents	32	35	33
Poverty	33	33	31.7
Imitating peers	8	2	1
Support self	4	7	4.3
Pay school fees	3	4	6
Others	1	1	2

#### 4.5.1 Children's tasks by Age and Gender

The respondents were also asked to state the tasks children (child labourers) were involved in (*see photos 1-7 on children's tasks at the beach*). According to the study, findings tasks included: processing (Cleaning, packing, smoking and Selling) of fish, working on the farm, working outside the home, commercial work and fishing. About 50 percent of the respondents were engaged in fish processing. Children aged 5 -17 years reported that they helped with household chores. Girls were most active in the household responsibilities where about 5 percent of girls helped in the household compared to 1% of boys. More girls were engaged in commercial work 50% compared to boys at 30%. However, greater proportion of boys engaged in actual fishing 70 percent compared to zero percent of girls. This implies that the gender division of labour gets more salient as children get older. More responsibilities increase with age especially if there are younger siblings. This probably explains the high percentage in the age bracket 15-17 years. Table 4.6 below presents the proportion of children participating in each of these activities by age and gender.

**Figure 4.1: Activities**





**Table 4.6: Children's Tasks by Age and Gender**

Gender	Age in Years		
	5-9 (%)	10-14 (%)	15-17 (%)
<b>Boys</b>			
Processing of fish	40	23	10
Fishing	28	62	72
Commercial work	30	10	16
Farm work	1	4	2
Family household	1	1	0
<b>Girls</b>			
Processing of fish	50	35	40
Fishing	0	0	0
Commercial work	35	50	45
Farm work	10	13	13
Family household	5	2	2



#### 4.5.2 Socio-economic profile of the families of child labourers

During household interviews, information was gathered on the socio-economic profile of the families of child labourers. These profiles include the status of both or either of the parents, whom children live with and educational level of the parent/guardian.

#### 4.5.3 Status of the Parents

The study sought information on whether parents of the children engaged in child labour were alive or not. It was found that in 42.3 percent of cases, both parents were dead. Of the children belonging to single parent, 18.7 percent had only their mother alive while 7 percent had only father alive. The result further revealed that 30.6% of the respondents' parents were alive while 1.4 percent did not know the survival status of their parents and easily considered themselves to be orphans. From the results it is apparent that the absence of parents is a major contributing factor to child labour. However, overall half of the children were found to engage in child labour despite the presence of their parents who sometimes induce them into child labour to augment family income. This sad state of affair is probably propagated by the high levels of poverty prevailing in the community which render parents incapable of providing for their families thus forcing them to induce their children to engage in child labour as an alternative source of income. The results are presented in Table 4.7 below.

**Table 4.7: Status of the child labourers' Parents (N=40)**

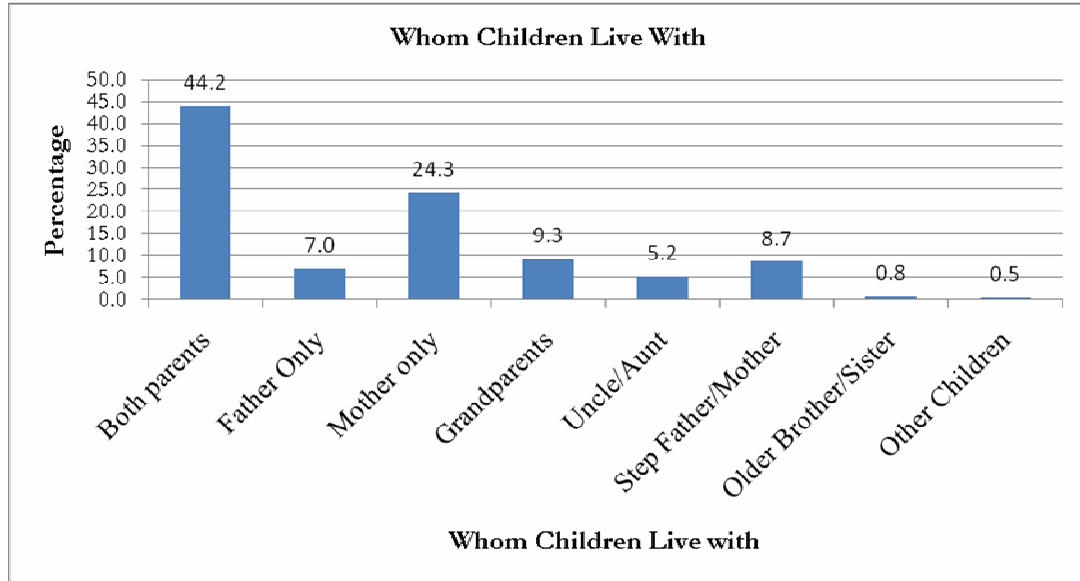
Status	Percentage
Both parents dead (total orphans)	42.3
Only mother alive	18.7
Only father alive	7.0
Both parents alive	30.6
Don't know	1.4

#### 4.5.4: Whom children live with?

The study found that 44.2% of the respondents indicated that they live with both parents, 7% stated that they live with their fathers, 24.3% stated that they live with their mothers, 9.3% stated that they live with their grandparents, 5.2% stated that they live with their uncles, 8.7% stated that they live with their step mothers/fathers, 0.8 stated that they live with their elder brother/sister while a similar number 0.5% indicated they live with other children. Thus lack of both or either parents is a major contributor to the social scourge of child labour. When the

respondents (children) were asked to state whom they live with, the results are presented in figure 1.

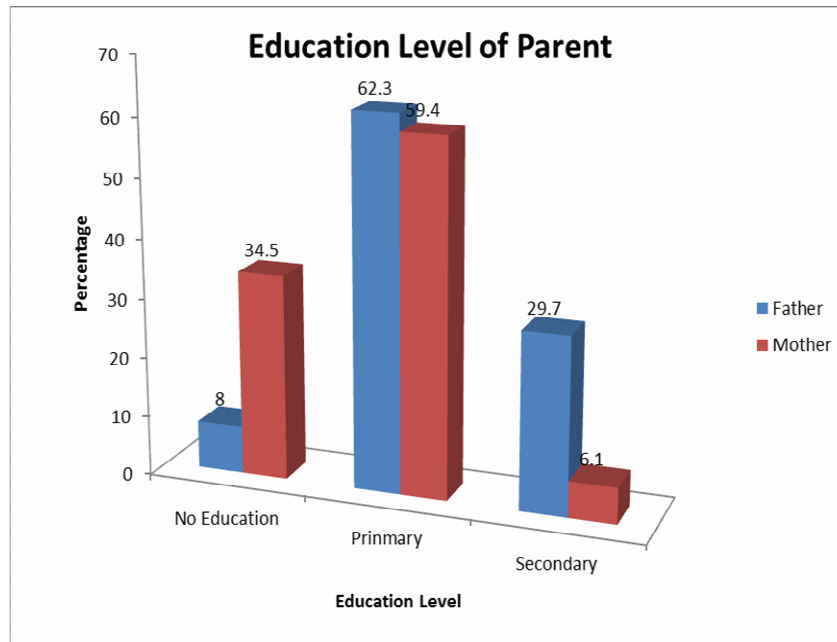
**Figure 4.2: Whom children live with?**



#### 4.5.6 Educational level of the Parents

The results indicate that fathers tend to be more educated than mothers probably due to cultural orientations. About 30 percent of the fathers had secondary or higher level of education compared to only 6.1 percent of the mothers. On the lower end, about a third of mothers (34.5%) had no education compared to 8 percent of fathers. Majority of the parents had primary level of education; fathers (62.3 %) and mothers (59.4 %). These results imply that child labour is high along Sori beach due to the low literacy level of parents. With little or no education parents do not fully appreciate the value of taking their children to school. The results further indicate that literacy level is high among males (men) as compared to female (women). Figure 2 below presents education level of parent (father and mother).

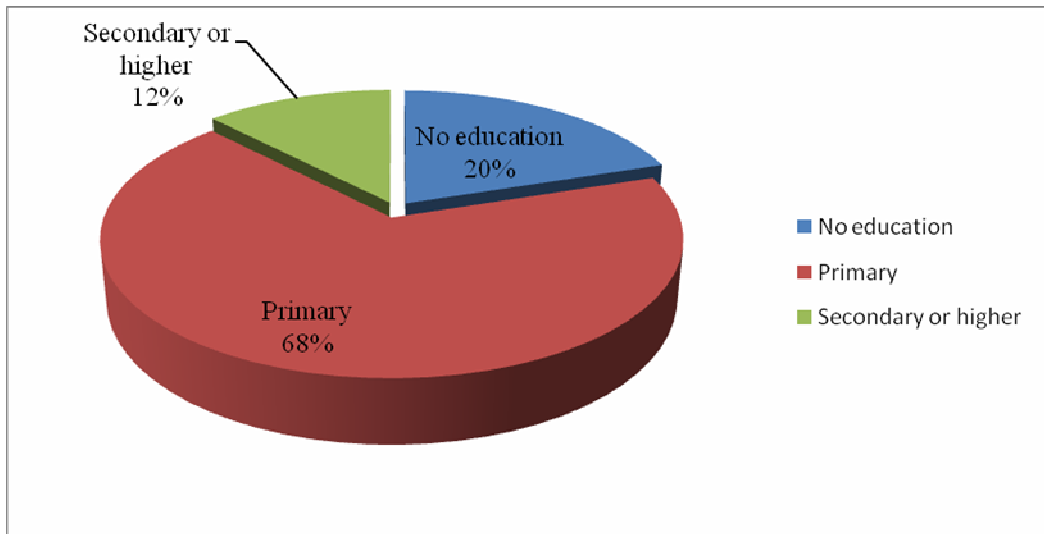
**Figure 4.3: Educational level of parents**



#### **4.5.7 Educational level of the head of household**

In this study there were a total of 40 household heads of whom 75% were male while 25% female. Educational level of the household head was probed. Majority of the household heads were found to have attained primary level of education 67.7%. About 20 percent of the household heads were found to have no education at all, while only 12.3 percent had secondary school or above. The low educational attainment level could be a contributing factor in that without empowerment through education, household heads cannot provide for their children. Children from such households are thus demotivated and often engage in hazardous undertakings such as child labour instead of going to school.

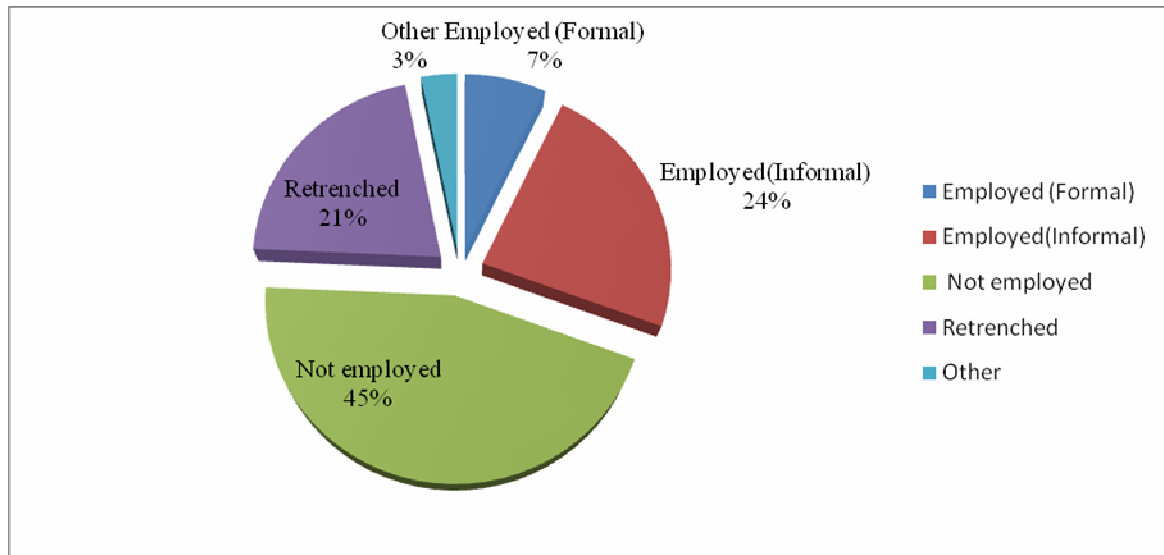
**Figure 4.4: Educational Level of the Head of Households**



#### **4.5.8 Work Status of the child labourers' Parents**

Information about the work status of the parents was collected during the research. An analysis of the work status of parents shows that majority (45%) of the parents were not employed. About 1 out of 4 parents were employed informally while 21 percent used to work at some point but had either retired or been retrenched. Only 7 percent of the parents were engaged in formal employment (e.g by government, private sector). The results indicate that children are more likely to engage in child labour if their parents are unemployed, retired or not engaged at all. Lack of gainful employment is thus one of the major contributing factors to child labour.

**Figure 4.5: Work Status of Parents**



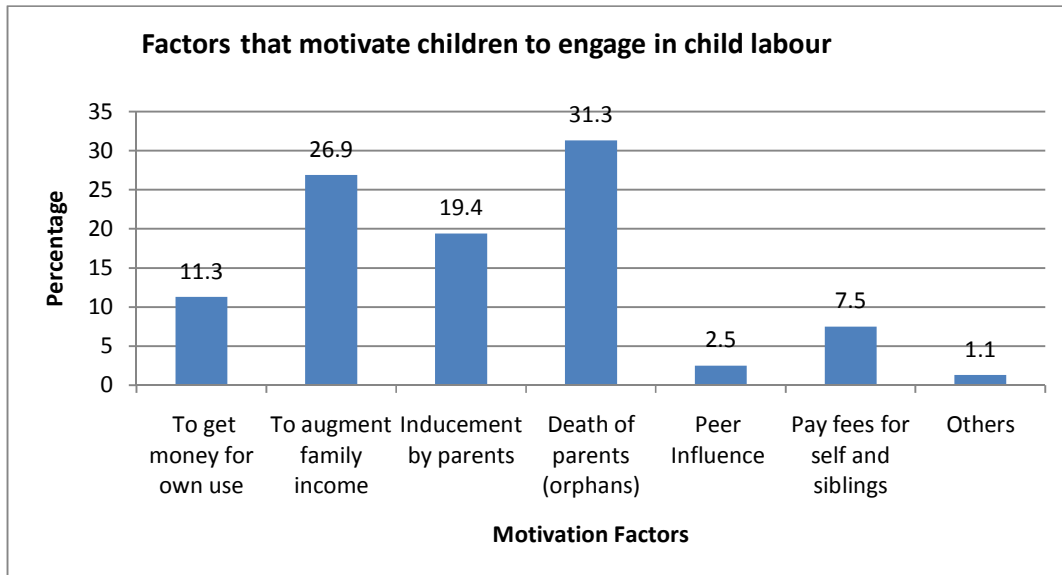
#### **4.6 Factors that motivate children to engage in child labour**

The second objective of this study was to understand and analyze various factors that cause children to engage in work at a tender age. Here, the study referred to these factors as motivators (i.e. socio-cultural, economic, environmental and legal) of child labour. Indeed, a wide range of factors may be involved in making a child work and often it is a combination of factors. Some of these factors or combinations of factors are thought to have direct causal link to the incidences of child labour.

The study found that 31.3% of the respondents indicated that they were orphans and they needed to support themselves. This shows that the absence of parents through death or other means is a major contributing factor to the engagement of children in child labour. About 26.9% of the respondents indicated that they work to augment family income. This is probably a manifestation of the high level of poverty in the region. The result thus implies that children engaged in child labour due to poverty. Poor families tend to have more children than they can cater for thus young children are forced to take up jobs to get extra income. The study found out that 19.4% of the respondents indicated that they were induced by their parent to engage in child labour. Again this is probably caused by the high level of poverty as well as the low literacy level. The study further found out that 11.3% of the respondents indicated that they engaged in child labour to get money for personal use. This is an indication of general misdemeanor on the part of the children, while 7.5% of the children indicated that they engaged in child labour in order to pay school fees for themselves and

their siblings. About 2.5% of the respondents indicated that they involved in child labour to be like their peers who are already engaged in the activity. Only 1.1% of respondents gave various reasons such as need for adventure, to buy luxury items like mobile phones and other things. Figure 5 outlines a summary of respondents on these factors.

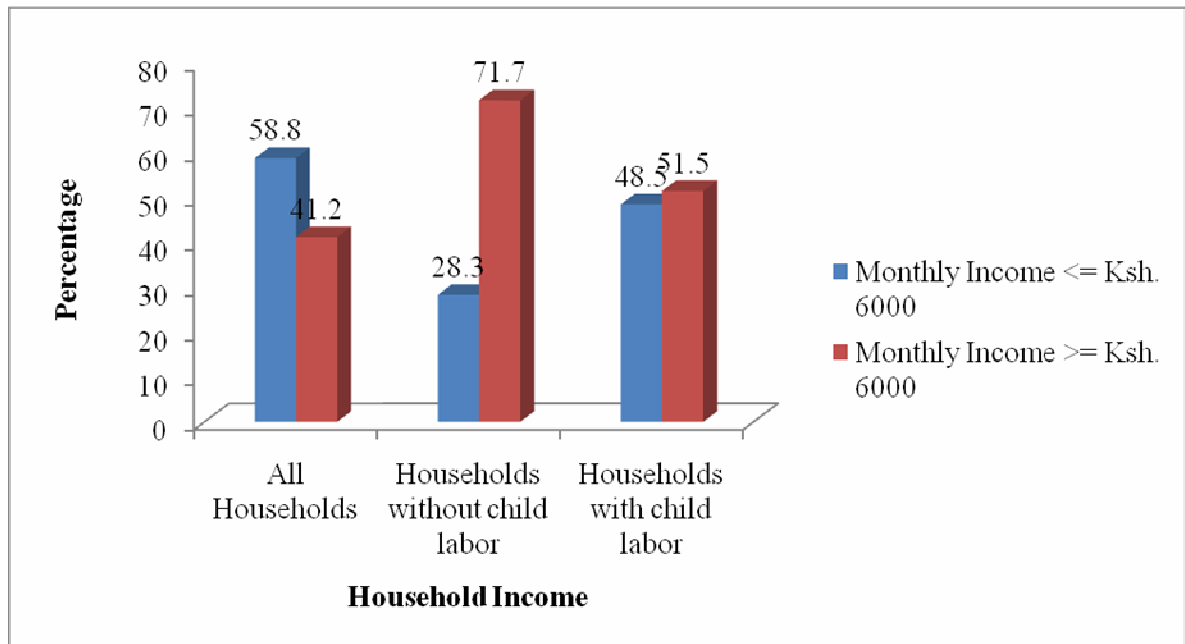
**Figure 4.6: Factors that motivate children to engage in child labour**



#### 4.6.1 The relationship between Child Labour and Household Income

In order to establish whether there exist significant relationship between child labour and household income. A comparative analysis was carried out for the levels of household income and child labour. The categories of monthly income levels were divided into two (those earning less than Ksh.6,000/= per month and those earning above Ksh.6,000/= representing the poor and the rich respectively) for ease of analysis. The results show that about 58.8 percent of households' earned less than Ksh.6,000/= per month as indicated in the bar labeled all households. For those households with no child labour, about 28.3 percent earn less than Ksh.6,000/= per month. However, in the case of households with child labour, this percentage increases to 48.5 percent. This shows that there is a higher probability of finding a child labourer in poor households as compared to households that are slightly better off in terms of their monthly household income. Therefore the low level of household income push children to look for other alternative sources of income to augment their low. The results are presented in the Figure 6 below.

**Figure 4.7: Household Income and Incidences of Child Labour in Sori Beach.**

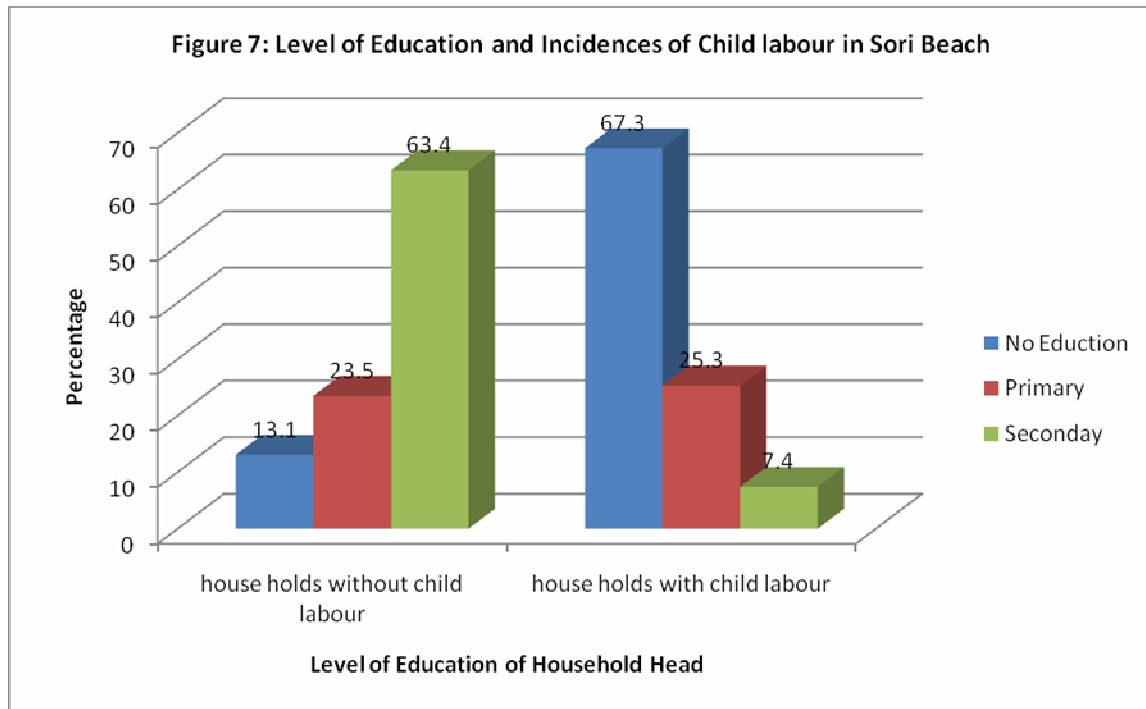


#### **4.6.2 The relationship between Child Labour and Education level of the Household**

##### **Head**

Education level of head of households was compared across all households including those not having child labour (Figure 7). The results show that of the sampled households; child labour was prevalent in 23.5 percent of the households whose head had primary level of education or below while 67.3 percent had household head with no education at all and only 7.4 percent of the household head had secondary level of education. Thus, in household where the head is more educated, there is more probability that they would take their children to school. If the child is admitted and attending school regularly, then they are less likely to get engaged in child labour. Hence education of the household head is thus an important determinant of child labour along Sori fishing beach.

**Figure 4.8: Level of Education and Incidences of Child Labour in Sori Beach**



#### **4.7 Terms and Conditions of Service for children engaged in child labour**

The Third objective of the study sought opinions of child labourers on their perceptions on terms and conditions of service. The analysis was done using a 5 likert scale (always, often, sometimes, rarely and strongly never). From table 4.8, 45.7% of the respondents reported that they were always being assaulted at workplace while 54.3% felt that they were being subjected to physical abuse. 45.7% of the respondents felt that their work always affected them psychologically. Most of the respondents (78.3%) stated that the work assigned to them always require more physical strength than they can manage and in most cases such work are risky and often lead to injury or death (65.2%).

The study further established that there exists a great discontent among respondents with the terms and conditions of service. About 41.3% of the respondents felt that what they earn is not equivalent to the pay which adults, doing similar tasks get while about 39.1 percent felt that their pays is not always as agreed and it is always delayed. Payment was noted to be non-standard but in some cases where they were paid, the study found out that most of the child labourers earn between Kshs.100 to 200per day. On the extreme, some earned as little as Kshs.30 while lucky ones could earn as much as Kshs.800.



A significant proportion of respondent 34.6 percent indicated that they were not being paid meaning, their payments were being received by parents/guardian or retained by employers. It is apparent that sometimes negotiations of payment were done between the employers, parents/guardians without involvement of the affected children. This confirms the very exploitative nature of child labour. The respondents also indicated that there was maltreatment in various forms and were also exposed to various risks such as contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, malaria, commercial sexual exploitation and teenage pregnancy for the girls. It was reported that boys were being lured by older women using sexual favours to cohabit. Most of the respondents indicated that they were not covered medically and their employers do not remit NSSF/NHIF money as required by law.

The greatest danger to these children lies in the potential of being drowned accidentally or through ignorance. They also indicated that they spend more hours' (up to 12 hours) at work leaving less time for learning and other developmental activities. Respondents stated that their employers do not allow them to go on leave or take off days as going on leave/off may result to termination of contract since there are no written contracts or agreements made at the time of engagement. The study further found out that the children were not given accommodation and they had to organize for their own accommodation in existing poorly-built, mostly wood, earth and iron sheets structures. The study also found out that some of the child labourers come from other counties as far as Siaya, Homa bay and Kisumu to join relatives, friends or other children and the researcher could not talk to their parents/guardian. Table 4.8 below outlines how respondents in respect to terms and conditions of service.

**Table 4.8: Terms and Conditions of Service**

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Always (%)</b>	<b>Often (%)</b>	<b>Sometimes (%)</b>	<b>Rarely (%)</b>	<b>Never (%)</b>
1. The work assigned requires more physical strength than I can manage	36(78.3)	9(19.6)	3 (6.5)	(2.2)	-(0.0)
2. The work assigned is risky and leads to injury/death	30(65.2)	6(13.0)	7 (15.2)	-(0.0)	-(0.0)
3. I earn equivalent pay to grown-ups doing similar tasks	1 (2.2)	6(13.0)	(0.0)	19(41.3)	17 (37.0)
4. My pay is always as agreed	5(10.9)	5(10.9)	1(2.2)	17(37.0)	18 (39.1)
5. My pay is always delayed	18(39.1)	19(41.3)	5(10.9)	4 (8.7)	(0.0)
6. I am not paid at all	10 (21.8)	5 (10.9)	15(32.7)	-(0.0)	16(34.6)
7. My work does not allow me to attend school and do my assignments	8(17.4)	5(10.9)	(0.0)	12(26.1)	21(45.7)
8. I am assaulted at my workplace	21(45.7)	16(34.8)	6 (13.0)	3 (6.5)	2 (4.3)
9. I do not have adequate time to play like other children	5 (10.9)	9 (19.6)	(0.0)	9 (19.6)	3(50.0)
10. This work hinders my physical growth	30(65.2)	6 (13.0)	7 (15.2)	3 (6.5)	(0.0)
11. This work affects me psychologically	28(60.9)	8 (17.4)	6 (13.0)	4 (8.7)	6 (13.0)
12. I am subjected to physical abuse at the workplace	25(54.3)	15(32.6)	2 (4.3)	(0.0)	2 (4.3)
13. I am subjected to psychological abuse/verbal or other abuse at the workplace	21(45.7)	9(19.6)	2(4.3)	12(26.1)	2 (4.3)

**4.7.1 Influence of Child Labour on School attendance**

The study also looked at the opinion of respondents on the influence of child labour on school attendance at Sori Beach. The results show a negative relationship between school attendance and child labour. Most respondents 45.7% felt that participating in child labour never allow them time to attend schools and do their assignments. The finding probably explains the low

educational enrolment vis a vis education standards in the area. This condition further leads to low socio-economic standards in the area hence high levels of poverty which contributes to the high prevalence of child labour in the area. Onyango (1998) in his study about poverty levels along the beaches noted that the rights of children are always denied when they work as child labourers. When children are engaged in contractual work, they are likely to be subjected to physical and sexual abuse by their employers. This finding affirms this argument.

#### **4.8 Roles of Parents/Guardians regarding incidences of child Labour**

The researcher attempted to establish the role played by parents/guardians in respect to child labour. The overall opinion regarding child labour among parents interviewed demonstrates a very negative picture. Since the topic is sensitive and most parents were unwilling to directly provide specific answers, a number of deductions were arrived at from responses obtained from indirect questions and inferences from children respondents. About 75% of the respondents' parents/guardians indicated that they were jobless. Hence lack of meaningful or gainful employment is a major contributing factor that renders parents helpless thus resulting to accepting their children to engage in child labour to augment family income. About 66.8 percent of parents/guardians indicated that child labour improves families' livelihoods by supplementing income. According to the findings, a number of parents encourage their children to participate in child labour as a source of extra family income. A further 40.9 percent believed child labour always instills a sense of responsibility in children making them responsible adults. Indeed 8% of the respondents' children indicated that their parents prompted them to go and look for some form of employment. High level of poverty within the community forced parents into accepting child labour as alternative source of livelihood. This position is affirmed by the fact that about 31 % of the respondents' children indicated that they engaged in child labour due to inability of parents to provide for their needs. Thus poverty is a major contributing factor forcing parents to accept child labour as a normal practice. In addition, a number of respondents' indicated that they were either from single or separated families, the other partner having been lost either through death or any other form of separation. This implies that the absence of either one of the partners significantly undermines the capacity of remaining partners/parents to adequately provide for their family needs forcing them to encourage their children to go out and engaged in child labour as an alternative source of income. From the study, it was also found out that more girl child were

engaged in child labour as compared to boy child implying that parents, due to cultural attitude and orientation were more willing to allow their girl child to participate in child labour. It could also be attributed to the attitude of parents towards the girl child education. Still 5.4 % of respondents indicated that child labour is an integral part of child development and they see nothing wrong with it. The results are presented in Table 4.9 below

**Table 4.9: Roles of parents/guardians regarding incidences of Child Labour**

	Always (%)	Often (%)	Sometimes (%)	Rarely (%)	Never (%)	Total (N)
a) Child labour improves families livelihoods by supplementing income	66.8	28.2	5.0	0.0	0.0	25
b) Child labour instills a sense of responsibility in children making them responsible adults	40.9	22.9	6.8	14.1	15	25
c) Child labour is practiced as part and parcel of culture	5.4	12.3	78.1	1.5	2.7	25
d) Parent staying together	5.2	11.8	7.0	8.0	68.0	25
e) Child labour parents not employed	75.1	20.0	4.9	0.0	0.0	25
f) Parents low level of education encourages child labour	48.9	25.5	15.5	7.0	3.1	25

#### **4.9 Preference of employers for child labourers**

The study also sought to establish the perceptions of employers towards child labour. The information was obtained irrespective of those employed in domestic or in fishing industries along the beach. Specifically, the study sought the perception of employers with regards to remuneration, terms and conditions of services. Responses of employers against a set of statements were noted to understand their perceptions against child labour.

The results show that employers of child labourers were employing children mostly because children are co-operative, efficient, faithful and willing to work, easily available and that they are a very cheap form of labour. It is quite apparent from these responses that employers of child labourers wish to employ children on the account of reducing labour costs. About 58 percent of employers feel that they always pay fair and just wages to the children. However, the high number of respondents who feel this way could reflect their selfish attitude as they would want to cover their ill motives - a reflection of societal social decadence. The

employers however, admitted that adults would demand higher pay for similar work. About 68 percent of employers surveyed said they always assigned tasks and responsibilities that take into consideration the child's age, physical and mental capability and ensures that the child wellbeing is taken care of which is not true.

While providing a safe working environment to all child labourers is a requirement by law, more than often it can be seen that children were involved in risky or hazardous tasks that expose them to life-threatening accidents such as drowning, attack by wild animals (crocodiles, snakes) and strangers. But from the research findings, it can be seen that majority (64%) of employers stated that they always minimized exposing the children to any risks by providing a danger-free and conducive work place to child labourers. However, safe working environment does not only include safety from physical harm but it also requires safety of children from mental and sexual harassment. From the research findings, it is apparent that what employers constitute as safe or danger-free may not be the same as a working environment that is actually safe and conducive for children. It was noted that employers do not take care of medical bills, no leave/off days and working without protective gears/attires. About 56% of the employers felt that they always ensured that medical care is given to the children when they fell sick.

In addition, 32 percent of the employers stated that they reviewed backgrounds of the children and sought consent from their parents/guardians before hiring them. This indicates the very exploitative nature of child labour where employers think that they acquire the right to violate the rights of children by seeking mere consent from their parents/guardian. The study findings also indicated that some of the employers (33.3 %) were aware of the Employment Act 2007 but do not comply while a majority (66.7%) indicated that they were not aware of any government laws. The results are presented in Table 4.9 below.

**Table 4.10: Why employers prefer child labourers**

Statement	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Total (N)
1. He/she pay fair and just wages to the children	58.0	26.1	15.9	0.0	0.0	15
2. He/she assigns tasks and responsibilities that take into consideration the child's age, physical and mental capability and ensures that the child wellbeing is taken care of	68.0	12.5	0.0	8.0	0.0	15
3. He/she minimizes exposing of the children to any risks	64.0	9.7	6.2	16.1	4.0	15
4. He/she ensures that the children are not engaged in criminal or illegal activities	18.0	7.1	68.4	6.5	0.0	15
5. He/she seeks to understand the background of the child before hiring them, and seeks the consent of their parents/guardians before hiring them.	36.5	25.9	29.4	8.2	0.0	15
6. He/she ensures that children are not exposed to long working hours	32.0	12.0	56.0	0.0	0.0	15
7. He/she ensures that medical care is given to the children when they fall sick	56.0	11.1	8.4	18.3	6.2	15
8. He/she ensure that the children are not subjected to mental or physical abuse	68.2	15.8	7.1	8.4	8.9	15

#### 4.10 Views about enforcement of Laws regarding children

Key Informants Interviews were conducted with individuals considered to have essential information relevant to the subject matter in hand. For this study, Government representatives such as area Chief and Assistant Chief, beach leaders and teachers were interviewed. Respondents' opinions were sought on whether government legislations governing the issue of child labour were being enforced. Majority of the respondents indicated that existing laws and regulations concerning children were sometimes enforced. However, most of the times these laws were never enforced or were rarely enforced. Indeed it is only the area chief and

his assistant who indicated that these laws were enforced. The research findings also show general failure by government agencies to enforce relevant laws to guard against child labour. This is probably one of the reasons why incidences of child labour is high at Sori beach.

The study found out that some of the effects of the child labour along Sori beach of Lake Victoria include non-attendance to school (school drop-out), indulgence in misbehavior and prone to health problems such as HIV/AIDs, Prostitution, possible drowning/death.

The study further found out that some of the challenges encountered in dealing with child labour was that it was being practiced at the household level therefore making it difficult to detect. Some of the children were also engaging in this work at night outside the eye of the government law enforcement organs such as area Administrators and the Police. Still some of the children work deep into the lake outside the public view making it difficult to track and control.

The study also found out that very little is being done at the beach level since there are no running programme targeting such children. The complexity of the problem (some parents/guardian encourage their children to engage in it) making them part of the problem as oppose to solution has compromise various intervention initiatives. In the recent past the government has also attempted to deal with Children Act Cap 141.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter outlines the summary, conclusions and recommendations. The chapter also highlights areas the researcher has recommended for further research.

#### **5.2 Summary of the Findings**

The study found out that there was high child labour along Sori beach and a number of factors were identified to be the main contributors: Death or absence of either parent. A number of respondents (children involved in child labour) indicated that they were either total orphans or were leaving with single parents. This implies that the absence of parents through death or other means is a major contributing factor to the practice of child labour. The lonely children thus engage in child labour as the only sure means of survival.

Other respondents indicated that their parents/guardians were poor without basic materials or any gainful employment to sustain their families. Hence, the high level of poverty prevailing in the community probably made parents unable to provide for the entire needs of their children forcing such children to seek the fulfillment of un-provided needs through child labour.

Most respondents also indicated that their parents did not have formal education beyond primary level which indicates high level of illiteracy in the community. The high illiteracy level makes it difficult to empower the parents/guardians through sustainable initiatives that can guarantee adequate attainment of basic family needs. With little or no educations, parents do not fully appreciate the value of taking their children to school which is the main avenue for exiting poverty for such poor communities. Other children engaged in child labour to augment household income after realizing their parents were unable to adequately provide for all the requirements for the family.

Some respondents also indicated that they engaged in child labour to support self and their siblings. This category of respondents were either orphans, children living with single parents or those who just responded this way to justify why they are at the beach.



There was lack of enforcement of government laws regarding children. Most key informants indicated that there was little or no enforcement of such laws at all. According to the findings, even most employers were not aware of all existing regulations concerning children. Only the provincial administration (area Chief and Assistant Chief), probably due to the nature of their responsibilities, indicated that the government was attempting to enforce existing regulations such as the Children's Act of 2010.

With regards to factors motivating child labour, the study found out, on a rather sad note, that a significant number of children were encouraged by their parents – mainly due to poverty-related pressures. This sad state of affairs is probably caused by the high level of poverty prevailing in the community as well as low level of education of the parents/guardians. This is probably a manifestation of the high level of poverty or lack of employment in the region.

Poor families tend to have many children than they can cater for adequately thus the children are forced to take up jobs to get extra income. The research findings further revealed that some children were lured into child labour by their peers. It was found out that such children engaged in child labour to imitate their peers who were already engaged in the activity.

The findings also noted that children engaged in child labour to get money for personal use, adventure, buy luxury items like mobile phones and other things. This is an indication of general misdemeanor on the part of the children.

It was also found out that some children venture into child labour due to the very nature of works some of which, such as fish drying, favour children. The children thus view the work as a cheap source of money.

On terms and conditions of service of children involved in child labour, the study found out that children were exposed to various risks like assault at workplace, subjected to physical abuse and in some cases they were overworked and often lead to injury or even death.

The study also found out that the children were underpaid as what they earn is not equivalent to the earning of the adults performing similar tasks or sometimes not paid at all. It was found out that even if they were paid, the payments always delayed and not what they agreed

upon and more so the payments were made to either parents/guardians or retained by the employers. This affirms the very exploitative nature of child labour.

The study finding also revealed that there was mistreatment of various forms and they were also exposed to various risks such as contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, malaria, commercial sexual exploitation, teenage pregnancy especially the girls while boys were lured by older women to sex.

The study also revealed that child labour was practiced due to lack of access to education among many children and parents in the community. The child labourers spent more hours at work leaving no time to rest or grow.

The study findings found out that there is no written agreement at the time of employment/engagement leading to exploitation as employers renege on their verbal promises in terms of payment.

On the roles of parents/guardians regarding child labour; the study found out that most of the parents/guardians were jobless without gainful employment. Lack of gainful employment render parents helpless thus coercing them into accepting their children to engage in child labour to augment family income.

The study findings also revealed that parents encourage their children to participate in child labour as part of cultural orientation in the belief that child labour always instills some sense of responsibility in children making them responsible adults. High level of poverty within the community forced parents into accepting their children to engage in child labour as alternative source of livelihood. This was affirmed by the children who engaged in child labour due to inability of parents to provide for their needs. Some of the parents were from single or separated families implying that the absence of either partner significantly undermines the capacity of remaining parents/guardians to adequately provide for their family needs forcing them to encourage them to go out and engaged in child labour as alternative source of income.

The study also found out that there was lack of awareness of important legislations on child welfare such as children's Act (2010), Employment Act (2007) and Education Act (CAP 211)

among the entire spectrum of the respondents. Majority of the children and most employers were ignorant of the existence of relevant regulations that protect the welfare of children. They thus violate these laws mainly out of ignorance. However a few employers were aware of these laws but still went ahead to violate them all the same since the concerned government enforcement agencies were either compromised or were not performing their tasks as required by law. This probably has contributed to child labour along Sori beach. The study also achieved its objectives of identifying factors that contribute to the practice of child labour along the fishing beaches of Lake Victoria.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

The study achieved its general objectives of establishing factors that contribute to child labour. From the study findings, it can be concluded that low education level of parents/households heads, unemployment, poverty, peer influence, death or absenteeism of parents and lack of enforcement of government regulations are some of the major contributing factors to child labour. Further, it can be concluded that child labour is exploitative and hazardous, with non-structured or verbal contracts and risky working environment. On the other hand, a very worrying trend was noted where a significant number of parents prompted their children to participate in child labour making them become part of the problem as opposed to being the part of the solution. The research findings indicated that most of the children were orphans and it can be correctly concluded that death of parents is one of the major contributing factor to child labour. A significant number of respondents indicated that they engaged in child labour due to the desire to be like their peers who were already engaged in the practice. From this finding, it can be concluded that peer influence is one of the major motivating factor to child labour. Still, some significant segments of the respondents indicated that they engaged in child labour to get some luxurious items such as mobile phones, entertainments among others. It can therefore be concluded that child labour is also caused by general societal decadence and misdemeanor. From the study findings, which indicate that more girls are involved in child labour as compared to boys it can be concluded that the girl child is more susceptible to child labour as compared to boys - probably due to societal cultural orientation.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

### **5.4.1 Community**

- (i) Parents should be enlightened on the need to take their children to school as part of their current and future development. Parents should be sensitized to work hard and avoid relying on their children to augment family income.
- (ii) Members of the public to shun and boycott the products and services. Provided by child labourers in Sori beach.

### **5.4.2 Government**

- (iii) The Government should ensure that laws governing issues on children welfare are enforced as required to fight the practice of child labour
- (iv) The Government should introduce other income generating activities among the fishing communities along Lake Victoria to reduce the high poverty level in such areas which force parents and children seek other means of augmenting family income through engagement in child labour.

### **5.4.3 Non-Governmental Organizations**

NGO should work hand in hand with local to raise awareness among families/ communities especially households where children involved in child labour about the risks to their children of sending them away to the beach and empowering them to help end the practice and campaign for alternatives.

### **Areas for further study**

In view of the findings of this study, the researcher recommends further studies to be conducted in the following areas:

1. The role played by HIV/AIDs pandemic on child labour
2. Role of Government law enforcement agencies in fighting child labour among fishing communities along the beaches of Lake Victoria.
3. The main features of fishing activities that promote child labour.

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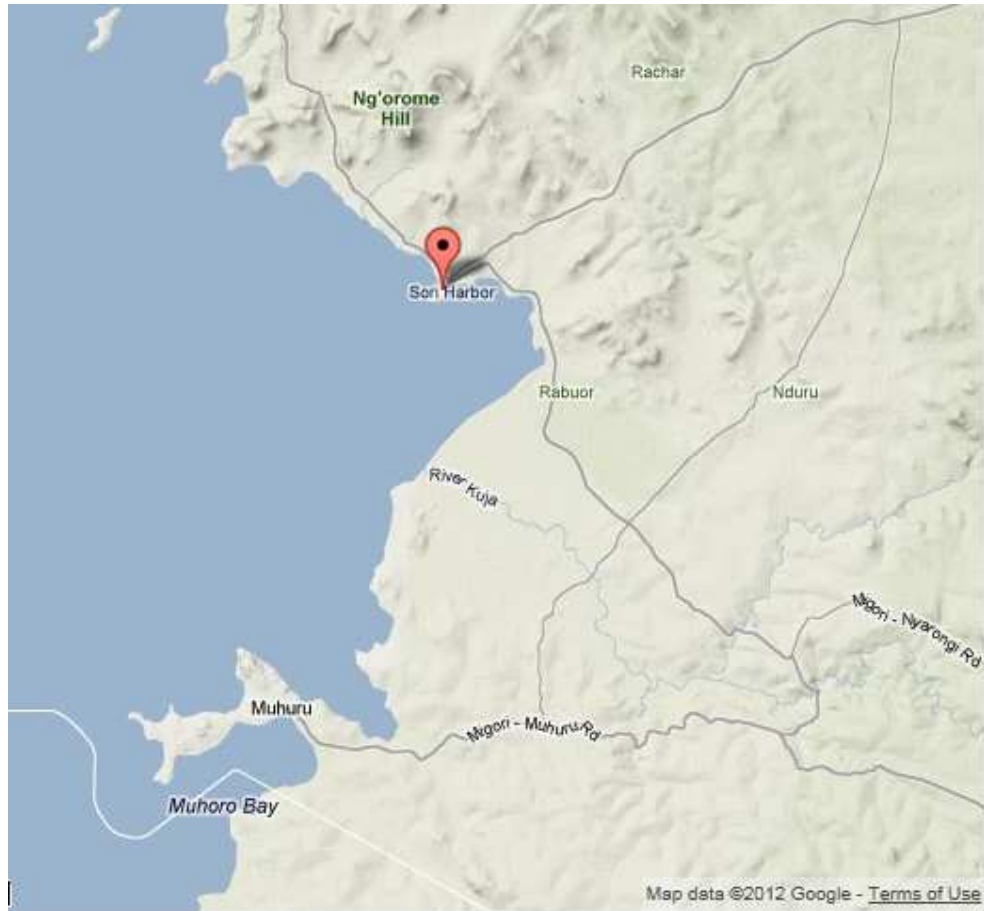
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# APPENDIXES

## APPENDIX 1: MAP SHOWING SORI BEACH



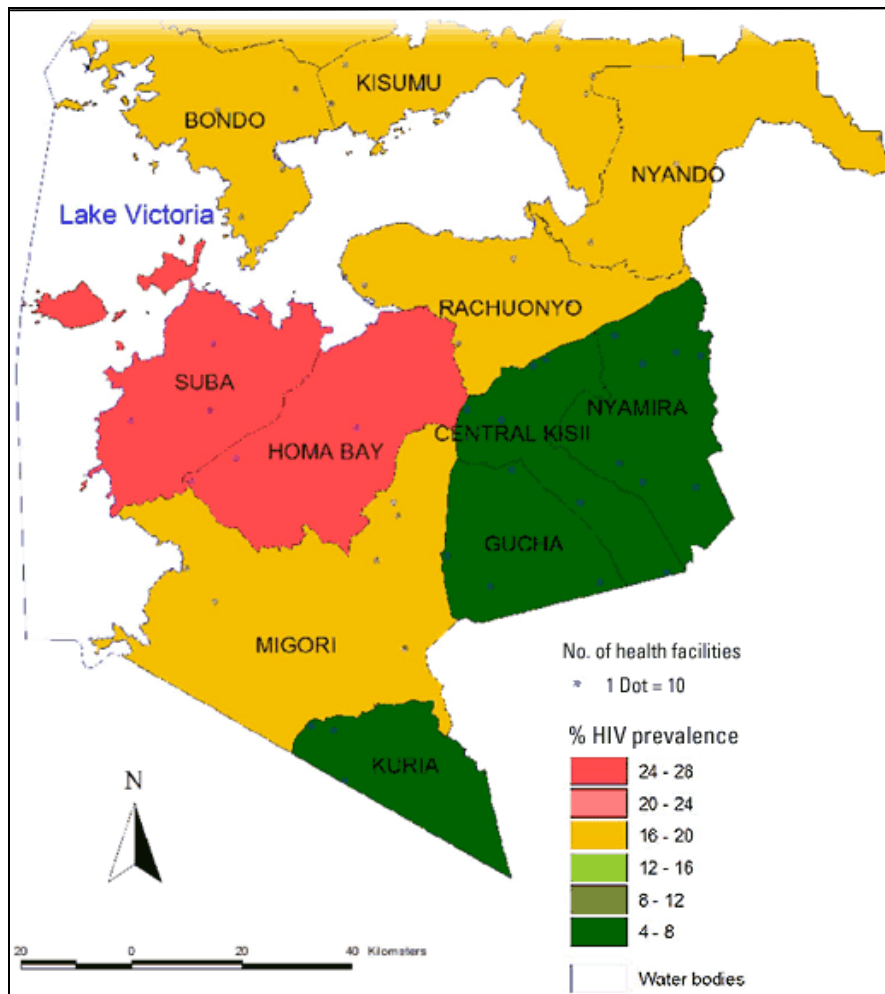
Source: Google Maps 2013

**APPENDIX 2: MAP OF MIGORI COUNTY SHOWING VARIOUS DIVISIONS**



Source: Google map 2012

**APPENDIX 3: MAP OF KENYA SHOWING THE LOCATION OF LAKE VICTORIA**



Source: Google Map 2013

## APPENDIX 4: PHOTOS

*Photo 1: Fishing boats*



*Photo 2: Children inside fishing ferry*



*Photo 3: Children heading for fishing*



*Photo 4: Children fishing using hooks*



*Photo 5: Girls waiting for boats*



*Photo 6: Boy fetching water using wheelbarrow*







*Photo 7: Boy preparing pressure lamps*

## **APPENDIX 5: INTRODUCTION LETTER**

Dear Respondent,

**RE: JACINTER AUMA ODERO – REG. NO. C50/73291/2009**

I am a postgraduate student at the University of Nairobi carrying out a study on **the prevalence of child labour along the fish beaches of Lake Victoria**. This is in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts of the University of Nairobi. You are among a large cross-section of the children/person in Sori beach, Migori County whom I am interviewing. Your response will be a representative of the children/people in Sori beach. The information you give will be treated with confidence and will be used for academic purposes only.

I am, therefore, kindly requesting you to answer the questions honestly. The information you provide will be used for research only and will be treated with strict confidence.

Yours faithfully,

Jacinter A. Odero

## APPENDIX 6: QUESTIONNAIRE

### INSTRUCTIONS

The aim of this questionnaire is to collect information from CHILDREN, EMPLOYERS and KEY INFORMANTS who are in one way or the other involved in or engaged in issues regarding children being engaged in pay labour. We would be grateful if you would use this questionnaire to provide the information. All replies to this questionnaire will be treated as strictly confidential and will solely be used for educational purposes and to inform government policy regarding child labour.

### SECTION I: CHILDREN

Name (optional) .....

Age .....

Sex                      (a).    Male                      (b)    Female

1. Marital status of the parents (together, single, divorced)	
2. What is your father's/ mother's level of education?	
3. Is your father employed/ mother?	
4. What are the tasks you do?	
5. Where do you live?	
6. Do you attend school?	
7. How long do you work per day?	
8. How much do you earn?	
9. Who receives the payments?	
10. For how long have you been working on the beach?	
11. Do you know your right?	

## SECTION II: EMPLOYERS

12. What is your educational level?	
13. Are you aware of child labour?	
14. Why do employ children?	
15. What work they do for you?	
16. How much do you pay them?	
17. Who receives the payment?	
18. Why don't you employ adults?	
19. Do you them accommodation, leave or off-days?	
20. Do you offer medical cover?	
21. Are you aware of children's Acts?	
22. Are you aware of Employment Act?	
23. Are the Government administrators (chief and assistant chiefs) aware that you are employing children?	

**SECTION III: TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

Please tick (√) (where applicable) the frequency with which the CONDITIONS occur

(This portion is to be filled by those below the age of 18 but in employment).

**Terms and Conditions of service**

Statement	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
The work assigned requires more physical strength than I can manage					
The work assigned is risky and leads to injury/death					
I earn equivalent pay to grown- ups doing similar tasks					
My pay is always as agreed					
My pay is always delayed					
My work allows me to attend school and do my assignments					
I am assaulted at my workplace					
I have adequate time to play like other children					
This work hinders my physical growth					
This work affects me psychologically					
I am subjected to physical abuse at the workplace					
I am subjected to psychological abuse/verbal or other abuse at the workplace					

**Terms and condition of service**

Statement	Always	Often	Sometim es	Rarel y	Never
He/she pay fair and just wages to the children					
He/she assigns tasks and responsibilities that take into consideration the child’s age, physical and mental capability and ensures that the child wellbeing is taken care of					
He/she minimizes exposing of the children to any risks					
He/she ensures that the children are not engaged					

in criminal or illegal activities					
He/she seeks to understand the background of the child before hiring them, and seeks then consent of their parents/guardians before hiring them.					
He/she ensures that children are not exposed to long working hours					
He/she ensures that medical care is given to the children when they fall sick					
He/she ensure that the children are not subjected to mental or physical abuse					

### Roles of parent/guardians regarding incidences of child labour

Question	Yes	No	Self employed	sometimes	Never
Does child labour improve families' livelihoods by supplementing income?					
Does child labour instill a sense of responsibility in children making them responsible adults?					
Is child labour practiced as part of cultural requirement?					
Are you parents staying together?					
Are you employed?					
What is your level of education?					
According to you does child labour improve family livelihood by supplementing income?					

### Preference of employers for child labourers

Statement	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Child labour interferes with the child's education					
Child labour interferes with the child's performance in school					
Child labour leads to high school dropout rates					
Child labour interferes with child physical health					
Child labour interferes with the mental health					
Children involved in child labour are exposed					

to risks that can affect their health					
Children involved in child labour are exposed to risks of sexual abuse					
Girls involved in child labour are likely to have children earlier					
Girls involved in child labour are likely to get married / involved in prostitution					
Boys involved in child labour are likely to get involved in crime/drugs					

#### SECTION IV: FOCUSED GROUPS

34. Are you aware of child labour?	
35. What are your views on child labour?	
36. What are the problems children are facing at the beach?	
37. Comment on the impacts of child labour on the affected children?	
38. Are you aware of children's Acts?	
39. In your view what is encouraging child labour along the beaches?	
40. In your view what can be done to eliminate/reduce child labour along the beaches?	
41. Are Government administrators (chief and assistant chiefs) aware of the incidence of child labour along the beach?	

**SECTION V: KEY INFORMANTS QUESTIONS**

1. What factors motivate children to engage in child labour?

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.....  
.....

What are the children working conditions?

.....  
.....  
.....

2. What are your views on child labour?

.....  
.....  
.....

3. Comments on the issues of child labour along the fishing beaches?

.....  
.....  
.....

4. Comments on how child labour affect the children?

.....  
.....  
.....

5. Comments on the impacts of child labour?

.....  
.....  
.....

6. What would you say are the challenges of child labour?

.....  
.....  
.....

7. How can child labour be eliminated?

.....



.....  
.....

8. How do you perceive child labour?

.....  
.....  
.....

9. What are the problems children are facing?

.....  
.....  
.....

10. Is the government administrators (chief and assistant chiefs) aware of the incidence of child labour along the beach?

(a). In your opinion and from your observation, state any **three** major policy issues that you believe if addressed will adequately address the child labour issues within Sori beach.

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_

(b) What in your opinion does the child employer (other than what they have already learnt and applied) need to learn to assist the government address the issue of child labour within Sori beach?

(Tick (√) all that apply)

- Children's act
- Labour laws
- Impact of child labour on mental health of the child
- Impact of child labour on the physical health of the child
- Overall impact of child labour on the society
- Other \_\_\_\_\_ (state)

(b) What other three remarks would want to make on the issue of child labour

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_