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A Case Study: Exploring Parents' Perspectives on Children's Livelihood Engagement towards Holistic Development

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Abstract

This qualitative case study delves into parental viewpoints concerning their children's involvement in livelihood activities and its impact on holistic development. The research critically analyzes the consequences of child labor on a child's academic achievement, well-being, and childhood experiences, specifically addressing the escalating rates of child labor in the Philippines. Focused on Pasil, Cebu City, the study explores parental perceptions of children's early engagement in labor and its broader implications for holistic development. Utilizing a case study approach and qualitative data collection through in-depth interviews, the research seeks to provide nuanced insights

into parental attitudes, evaluate the educational impact on children, and identify key factors shaping parental perspectives. Key findings illuminate the diverse factors influencing parental decisions, the perceived benefits and challenges of children's livelihood engagement, and implications for holistic child development. The study contributes valuable insights to the discourse on children's livelihoods, offering a nuanced understanding that informs policies and interventions aiming to address the complex dynamics surrounding child labor and promote holistic child development.

Keywords: Child Labor, Parental Perspectives, Livelihood Engagement, Holistic Development, Academic Achievement

Introduction

Childhood is universally acknowledged as a precious phase in a young individual's life, characterized by innocence, playfulness, and the exploration of a world brimming with wonder. According to Shahar, S. (2023) ^[14]. The period between birth and the age of 20 covers five of these stages: 'infancy' from birth to 15 months; 'early childhood', from 15 months to 2 1/2 years; 'the age of play', from 2 1/2 to 6; 'school age', from 6 to sexual maturation; 'youth', ending at the age of 20. It is during these formative years that children should have the opportunity to learn, develop, and embrace the joys of discovery. Tragically, this idealized childhood is an unattainable reality for many children who shoulder responsibilities and expectations that far exceed their tender years. They find themselves thrust into a harsh and unjust experience commonly known as child labor.

The origins of child labor can be traced back to the early days of industrialization when the burgeoning demands of industries frequently outpaced the available workforce. This gave rise to the widespread exploitation of children, often at the cost of their overall development, education, and well-being. According to Ibrahim, A. *et al.*, (2019) ^[8] that The International Labor Organization (ILO) describes child labor as 'work that deprives children of their childhood, potential and dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development' that disrupts schooling. Child labor is a global issue with repercussions that ripple across generations. In the Philippines, a nation renowned for its cultural diversity and rich history, the fight against child labor carries profound significance. The country's cultural tapestry is woven with stories of resilience and hope. Yet, in the 21st century, a significant number of Filipino children remain ensnared in the cycle of child labor. This complex issue reflects a web of societal and economic factors that have shaped the lives of these young individuals.

At the core of this issue lies the profound impact of early labor engagement on a child's academic achievement. Child labor, by its very definition, entails work that robs children of their potential, their cherished childhood, and their dignity, leaving enduring marks on their physical, psychological, and emotional development. This challenge is particularly acute for children from low-income families who must contribute to their family's income from an early age. Balancing these obligations

with their educational pursuits can prove exceedingly demanding, casting a shadow over their academic accomplishments.

In contemporary times, the Philippines faces a disconcerting trend as the number of working children continues to rise. According to the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), in 2022, an estimated 1.48 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 were engaged in some form of labor. Among this group, 4.7 percent of the total 31.71 million children in this age range were classified as child laborers, marking an increase from the 4.3 percent recorded in the previous year, totaling approximately 1.37 million children. An analysis of their distribution across sectors reveals that 49.5 percent of these working children are employed in the service sector, while 43.2 percent toil in agriculture, and 7.3 percent are engaged in the industrial sector. Equally concerning is the number of children exposed to hazardous conditions or forced to work more than 40 hours per week, estimated at 828,000 in 2022, a slight decrease from the 935,000 recorded in 2021.

The issue of child labor is a matter of paramount concern, both globally and locally, as it transcends geographical boundaries and socio-economic contexts. While extensive research has been conducted to understand the various dimensions of child labor, one crucial facet that has received increasing attention is the perspective of parents. Parents play a pivotal role in determining whether their children engage in labor activities and are often influenced by a complex interplay of cultural, economic, and social factors. Exploring the parental viewpoint on child labor is not only essential for comprehending the root causes and consequences of child labor but also for formulating effective policies and interventions to combat this pervasive problem. In line with this, Zarif and Nisa (2013) stated that parents are one of the causes children work at their early stage. According to them, the parents of children who seek early living are uneducated and illiterate so they let the children work to increase the family income. The household size is one of the factors that leads to child labor (Avais *et al.*, 2014).

The study delves into the perceptions, beliefs, and decisions of parents regarding child labor, aiming to shed light on the intricacies of this critical issue and contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the factors that shape children's involvement in labor activities. In addition, this study aims to bridge the gap between the welfare and rights of children and their early involvement in the labor force. It is intricately tied to the well-being and rights of children and seeks to comprehend the potential consequences of children's early entry into economic activities on their overall holistic development, health, and future prospects that will highly contribute to the study and benefit the researchers especially as part of Early Childhood Education. To address these concerns, the SDGS SECRETARIAT (2022) has launched a comprehensive Child Labor Program, designed to alleviate poverty (Goal 1 - No Poverty), advance ongoing educational progress (Goal 4 - Quality Education), and safeguard children from any form of child labor (Goal 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth). This initiative is overseen by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), which offers various forms of support to ensure the well-being of individuals at every stage of their lives. Understanding how a child seeks work during their early years and its impact on education is pivotal to achieving

these goals, which aim to create a brighter future for all. The eradication of child labor is an essential component of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with particular emphasis on Target 8.7, which aims to promote excellent health and well-being, demanding immediate and effective actions for its realization, including the abolition of forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking, and the categorical banishment of the most egregious forms of child labor, such as the recruitment and deployment of child soldiers. The ultimate aspiration is to eliminate all forms of child labor by 2025.

The central objective of this study is to investigate the perceptions of parents on child labor towards their holistic development in Pasil, Cebu City, Philippines, a critical issue with far-reaching consequences for the future of these young individuals. This research aims to illuminate the intricate interplay of economic, cultural, and social factors influencing child labor in the Philippines, offering insights into a complex issue that affects not only individual lives but also the broader fabric of society.

Statement of the study

The study focuses on the parent's perception towards the children's early pursuit of employment.

Specifically, the study seeks to answer the following:

1. What role do parental attitudes and expectations play in a child's decision to engage in early labor and its impact on their education?
2. How do parental perceptions of child labor influence a child's participation in school-related activities?
3. Are there differences in academic achievement between children whose parents encourage early work and those whose parents prioritize education?
4. What are the factors that contribute to parents allowing or even encouraging their children to work at a young age?

Scope and Delimitation of the study

This research aims to delve into parents' perceptions and attitudes towards child labor within the 8 to 17-year-old age bracket and its influence on children's academic resilience. The chosen research locale is Barangay Pasil, which holds contextual significance in this study. It will involve parents, whether their children actively participate in extracurricular pursuits and livelihood activities alongside their formal education or not. Qualitative interviews will be the principal means of data collection, with the research dedicated to conducting comprehensive, semi-structured interviews with parents. These interviews are designed to gain insights into parents' experiences and perspectives regarding their children's engagement in livelihood activities and how this engagement impacts their academic resilience. The research will employ thematic analysis as its methodology to identify recurring patterns, thematic constructs, and categorical frameworks within the gathered data. The primary focus will be on interpreting the experiences, challenges, and adaptive strategies adopted by children engaged in livelihood activities and how these factors influence their educational resilience. The anticipated duration of the research is approximately four months. In addition to its contextual nature, the study recognizes that the findings may not universally represent the perceptions of all parents of children engaged in livelihood activities in the specified locale. As a result, the research outcomes will be context-

bound.

Furthermore, this study acknowledges its potential implications for the broader population of child laborers in the Philippines. Although the primary focus is on parents in Barangay Pasil, the insights gained from their perspectives may provide valuable input for understanding the larger issue of child labor and academic resilience in the country. This aspect of the research will have broader implications and could guide future investigations into child labor and its effects on children's education in various regions of the Philippines. The research will uphold ethical principles in involving parents in the study, ensuring that their participation is voluntary and respecting their willingness and capacity to engage. Moreover, the study will be sensitive to potential challenges in data collection, such as language barriers and translation issues, to maintain the accuracy and authenticity of the findings during the analysis. The overarching objective of this research is to offer significant insights into parents' perceptions of children involved in child labor and their academic resilience within the predefined scope. While the study acknowledges its limitations, it will lay a foundation for future research endeavors in this area, considering the broader implications for child labor in the Philippines and encouraging further exploration into this critical issue.

Significance of the study

The qualitative study investigating how parents perceive child labor and its impact on the academic achievement of children in the Philippines holds substantial significance on multiple fronts. Firstly, it addresses a critical societal concern by delving into the complex challenges faced by numerous children in the country. Through a detailed exploration of the experiences and consequences of child labor, this research can offer deeper insights into the multifaceted issues these children grapple with. It serves as a vital source of information for various stakeholders and advocates committed to combating child labor.

Secondly, the study's findings have the potential to catalyze the development of policies and legislation at both regional and national levels. A comprehensive understanding of how childhood labor affects academic achievement can provide lawmakers and government agencies with pivotal data to design more effective, evidence-based interventions. Furthermore, it can support the creation of legislation that prioritizes the welfare and rights of children, ensuring their comprehensive protection. Furthermore, this research aligns harmoniously with critical Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the Philippines has pledged to achieve. It is in resonance with Goal 1 (No Poverty) by spotlighting the interplay between child labor and poverty, Goal 4 (Quality Education) by illuminating the barriers to education, and Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by addressing the predicament of early labor. These findings can augment the national drive to fulfill these goals, thus securing a brighter future for the country's children. In addition, the study's outcomes hold the potential to play a pivotal role in enhancing educational programs and policies. Schools and educational institutions can leverage the insights gleaned from this research to craft targeted interventions for children engaged in labor, facilitating superior educational outcomes. This insight is invaluable for developing tailored resources and programs catering to the distinct needs of these children. Moreover, this qualitative research may serve as a catalyst

for promoting collaboration among diverse stakeholders. It has the potential to bring together government bodies, non-governmental organizations, community groups, and advocates, encouraging a unified effort to confront child labor and improve access to quality education for all children. Collaborative action is instrumental in addressing the multifaceted issue of early childhood labor comprehensively.

Additionally, by giving a voice to children engaged in labor, this research empowers them to articulate their experiences and concerns. It can generate awareness regarding their rights and requirements, potentially catalyzing improvements in their lives. This empowerment is an indispensable component of endeavors aimed at safeguarding children and ensuring that they have the opportunities they rightfully deserve. Furthermore, the research may offer invaluable insights into parental attitudes and expectations regarding early childhood labor. This information can be harnessed to create programs and resources aimed at raising awareness among parents and supporting them in making informed decisions regarding their children's education and labor. It can facilitate improved communication between parents and educators.

Adding more to the subject, qualitative research contributes to the ever-expanding body of knowledge on child labor and its repercussions on education. It adds to the existing literature on a globally significant issue, serving as a point of reference for forthcoming researchers and scholars. This enriched knowledge base can aid in the development of more effective strategies to combat child labor on a global scale. Furthermore, the dissemination of the research findings has the potential to raise public awareness concerning the challenges faced by children engaged in labor. It can engage the public in discussions regarding child rights and contribute to broader conversations about social justice and equity. Heightened awareness can result in increased support for initiatives dedicated to eradicating child labor and ensuring access to quality education for all children.

Definitions of terms

Academic Achievement: This relates to a child's performance and accomplishments in their educational endeavors, including elements such as their grades, examination results, and overall progress in learning.

Child Labor: This refers to the engagement of minors in work or economic activities involving earning of money that deprive them of their potential, childhood experiences, and dignity, often resulting in hindrances to their comprehensive development.

Child Laborers: This refers to young individuals who partake in various labor or economic tasks at a tender age to earn a living for themselves or their families, typically in circumstances that compromise their well-being and educational opportunities.

Education: This encompasses the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, and values through organized learning experiences in educational institutions like schools.

Parental Attitudes: This encompasses the beliefs, viewpoints, and expectations of parents regarding their

child's engagement in labor and education.

Review of Related Literature

This chapter contains several discussions on the important point of views of previous researchers concerning the perspectives of parents of children engaged in livelihoods at a young stage and their holistic development towards academic achievement.

Parental Views of Child Labor

Depending on the conditions and the cultural setting, parental perspectives toward child work might vary significantly. For lack of better options and the need to contribute to the family's income, parents in many economically struggling regions may see child work as an essential necessity. According to Adonteng-Kissi, O. (2023)^[1] in both rural and urban Ghana, it sought to discover how parents perceived the nature of child labor. Participants comprised both parents whose children were engaged in child labor and parents whose children were not, in addition to government officials, NGO representatives, and both groups of parents. Parents (10) and stakeholders (10) participated in semi-structured interviews. In addition to the participant observations (10) and focus groups (30) that totals a respondents of 60. Parents in rural areas claimed that because children are working for cultural rather than economic reasons, child labor is primarily a cultural issue. On the other hand, as child labor plays a significant role in the local economy, children who live in the cities often engage in out of need. Designing and implementing the most effective techniques for intervention and prevention requires an understanding of the sociocultural and economic elements that influence child labor.

Parental Absence

Early parental care is seen to be one of the most crucial elements in fostering a child's abilities. Students who have parents who aren't present at school tend to have lower self-perceptions of their behavior and campus life, which includes being more likely to be late to class, less likely to receive praise from their teachers, and having issues integrating into the class and interacting with other students. Children who are left behind perform worse on cognitive and academic tests and are less likely to enroll in college. Compared to the absence of the father, the absence of the mother has more long-lasting detrimental impacts on a child's development (Mao, M. *et al.*, 2020).

A Comprehensive Review in Combating Child Labor

In their article, Santos and Cruz (2019)^[13] offer an extensive examination of child labor in the Philippines, providing valuable insights into the historical context, governmental policies, and international interventions aimed at addressing this complex issue. The literature on child labor in the Philippines forms a foundational backdrop for understanding the current challenges and achievements in confronting this problem. The authors shed light on the historical evolution of child labor in the Philippines, emphasizing its progression over time (Santos & Cruz, 2019)^[13]. This historical perspective is crucial for grasping the origins and persistence of child labor in the country, a viewpoint in line with prevailing research underscoring the importance of understanding historical factors that have shaped child labor. Santos and Cruz's review encompasses

an exploration of various governmental policies and programs designed to eliminate child labor (Santos & Cruz, 2019)^[13]. This segment of their review correlates with broader literature regarding child labor policies and their efficacy. Prior research frequently delves into the role of government initiatives in diminishing child labor and enhancing educational opportunities for children. A noteworthy dimension of the article is the scrutiny of international endeavors such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their influence on child labor reduction efforts in the Philippines (Santos & Cruz, 2019)^[13]. This international outlook resonates with the global discourse on addressing child labor and underscores the interconnection of this issue with international development objectives. Furthermore, the authors accentuate the challenges and achievements encountered in tackling child labor within the Philippines (Santos & Cruz, 2019)^[13]. This discussion represents a pivotal element in child labor literature, as it imparts valuable insights and best practices that can inform future policies and programs.

In summary, Santos and Cruz (2019)^[13] contribute "The Philippines' Experience in Combating Child Labor: A Comprehensive Review," which enriches the body of literature on child labor. Their article not only provides a comprehensive account of the Philippines' child labor situation but also aligns with broader discussions on child labor, governmental policies, international initiatives, and the complexities of addressing this pressing concern.

Child Labor Policy

According to Fernandez, R.C., and Abocejo, F. (2014)^[6], child labour is any employment situation in which a child is required to work while also attending school, which prevents them from receiving a formal education. It can also refer to situations in which a child is required to work and attend school at the same time (The International Labor Organization [ILO] (2014)). As a result, that the prevalence of child labour and the frequency of poverty correlated. Similarly, the prevalence of poverty has a close correlation with the number of working children who are employed not attending school. These kids are displaced due to poverty out of school. School kids are encouraged to work in the workforce due to prospects for quick money. In light of the study's findings and conclusions, the authors suggest programs and policies that the government and policy makers should consider to ensure a balance of providing working children with opportunities for education and employment without sacrificing one for the other, especially those at the elementary school level.

The Labor Code of the Philippines, also known as Republic Act (RA) 9231 an Act providing for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Affording Stronger Protection for the Working Child. The DOLE makes sure that priority is given to the welfare of laborers, including indigent people w/o families that their rights will be protected. Additionally, it organizes job fairs to help the unemployed find jobs, and it also supports the growth of skilled employees and business owners through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). These programs aim to reduce the consequences of unemployment and poverty but these two factors are connected to child labor which still cannot prevent this problem until now.

The revolution of finding a way in order to solve child labor causes the implementation of Educational Assistance from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

- The program contains 4 million identified beneficiaries under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).
- 6 million identified non-4Ps households who were previously beneficiaries under the 2018 to 2020 UCT program stipulated under RA 10963 or the TRAIN Law, including beneficiaries of the Social Pension Program.
- 2.4 million households in the database of the Listahan or National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) or other data sources as applicable, provided that they will fall within the first to fifth income decile of the NHTS-PR.

As the program's guidelines, the DSWD imposes requirements on households before they are eligible for cash assistance, criteria that also deal with the serious issue of school dropouts. Children aged 3-5 must be enrolled in a daycare or preschool program and must maintain a monthly class attendance rate of at least 85% (DSWD, 2014). Children aged 6 to 14 must be enrolled in elementary and high schools, and their households must maintain a class attendance rate of at least 85% each month (DSWD, 2014).

Poverty in Education

Education and poverty are closely related. Although not all uneducated people live in extreme poverty, the majority of adults in poverty lack a minimum education. Because they must work, poor people quit attending school, leaving them without the literacy and numeracy abilities necessary to change their position. Their children are also more likely to drop out of school due to their limited resources and income, which feeds a cycle of poverty that lasts for generations. This is regrettable because education's most significant impact on poverty is its potential to eradicate it (Alip, 2022) ^[2].

Growing the economy, reducing wealth disparity, and reducing domestic and societal violence are just a few of the ways that education directly contributes to ending poverty. According to Alip (2022) ^[2], Because of this, the fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of the UN 2030 Agenda focuses on education: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

According to Cordoso, M, and Casiño, J. (2015), child labor has been considered as an indicator of the prevalence of poverty (Kruger, Soares, & Bethelon, 2007) and is widespread in most developing countries (Edmonds, 2008). However, there were suggestions that child labor and schooling are not mutually exclusive (Ravallion & Wodon, 2000). It has often been demonstrated that enrollment rates for children who work are the same compared to individuals who are not in the labor market. Findings of this study revealed that in-school respondents' involvement in child labour is not mutually exclusivity and that they don't engage in any clear forms of underage labour. Typically, they integrate two or more types of child labor. Since these are the forms of employment that are most common among juvenile laborer's, the majority of them engage in farming or fishing. The findings of this study demonstrate that specific labor activities, particularly those involving housework or domestic—along with a healthy diet and regular attendance

at school—may show to have beneficial impacts on the child's academics.

Child Labor in the Philippines

Cariño's (2016) ^[3] article, titled "Child Labor in the Philippines: A Review of Selected Studies," presents a comprehensive and insightful overview of multiple studies on child labor in the Philippines. This review article plays a pivotal role in synthesizing findings from diverse research efforts and shedding light on the prevailing patterns and issues related to child labor in the country. The Philippines has been a focal point for child labor research due to its significant child labor prevalence. Various studies, both domestic and international, have explored this issue from numerous angles. These studies have collectively contributed to the understanding of child labor in the Philippine context.

One of the recurring themes in these selected studies is the critical relationship between child labor and access to education. The research consistently highlights the detrimental impact of child labor on children's school attendance and educational attainment. This concern aligns with a broader global discourse on the intersection of child labor and education (Tan, 2014) ^[17]. Additionally, the reviewed studies often underscore the gender dimensions of child labor in the Philippines. They reveal how girls and boys may experience child labor differently, with girls frequently facing unique challenges, including domestic work (Santiago, 2019). This gendered perspective adds depth to the understanding of child labor dynamics in the country.

The reviewed research also emphasizes the economic factors that drive child labor in the Philippines. Poverty remains a central driver, pushing children into the labor force to contribute to their family's income. This aligns with broader discussions on the socioeconomic determinants of child labor (Ramos, 2020). Cariño's (2016) ^[3] review article contributes to the literature by consolidating these findings and offering a comprehensive view of child labor in the Philippines. By summarizing and highlighting the key themes and patterns identified in various studies, this review serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and advocates working to address child labor in the country.

One of the pivotal themes that emerge from the selected studies is the impact of child labor on access to education. The research consistently underlines how child labor disrupts children's school attendance and educational achievements. This effect is particularly pronounced in impoverished regions where children often face the difficult choice between earning income for their families and pursuing their education. Such findings align with global efforts to break the link between child labor and limited educational opportunities (Tan, 2014) ^[17].

A noteworthy dimension illuminated by the reviewed studies is the gender disparity in child labor. Girls in the Philippines often encounter distinctive challenges and vulnerabilities due to their involvement in child labor. Notably, domestic work is a common form of child labor for girls, impacting their education and overall well-being (Santiago, 2019).

Understanding these gender dynamics is crucial for crafting targeted interventions and policies that address the specific needs of girls engaged in labor. The economic factors driving child labor in the Philippines are another recurring

theme in these studies. Poverty remains a central driver, with families relying on the income generated by working children to make ends meet. The reviewed research underscores the urgency of addressing the economic drivers of child labor and highlights the need for holistic, poverty-reduction approaches (Ramos, 2020).

Additionally, the review article reveals the importance of a collaborative approach in addressing child labor in the Philippines. It emphasizes the need for policymakers, researchers, and child welfare advocates to work together to create effective interventions and policies that can reduce child labor incidence and improve the well-being of affected children.

Child Labor and Its Consequences for Child Health

Edmonds' (2017) ^[5] research, titled "Child Labor and Its Consequences for Child Health," delves into the health effects of child labor, providing insights into how early involvement in various labor activities can affect a child's physical and mental well-being. This study contributes to the growing body of literature addressing the multifaceted impacts of child labor on children's health. Much of the existing literature in the field of child labor emphasizes the negative health outcomes associated with children engaged in labor at a young age. Research consistently highlights the adverse physical consequences, including higher risks of injuries, malnutrition, and exposure to hazardous working conditions (Bhalotra & Heady, 2003; Basu, 1999).

Moreover, studies on child labor often delve into the psychological and emotional toll it takes on children. Child labor can lead to increased stress, fatigue, and mental health issues, which may have enduring effects on their overall well-being (Gupta & Shukla, 2012; Beegle, Dehejia, & Gatti, 2006). Edmonds' (2017) ^[5] study aligns with this broader literature by examining the lasting consequences of child labor on child health. It is well-documented that the health impacts of child labor can persist into adulthood, influencing both individual health and economic well-being in later life (Edmonds & Shrestha, 2012).

Furthermore, child labor has intergenerational health implications. Research has shown that children engaged in labor are more likely to have children who also face health problems, perpetuating a cycle of poor health outcomes (Edmonds & Pavcnik, 2005; Fassa, Parker, & Barros, 2000). The methodology employed in Edmonds' study, characterized by a rigorous empirical analysis of child labor and its health effects, adheres to established research standards in this field. The research methods used provide valuable insights into the intricate relationship between child labor and child health.

Child Labor, Poverty, and Education in Philippines

Dela Cruz's (2017) ^[4] study, titled "Child Labor, Poverty, and Education: The Philippine Experience," offers a valuable exploration of the intricate interplay between child labor, poverty, and education within the Philippine context. This research delves into the complex challenges faced by economically disadvantaged children who are obligated to participate in labor and the subsequent consequences on their ability to access education. The convergence of child labor, poverty, and education stands as a subject of significant concern, not only in the Philippines but also on a global scale. Multiple studies have consistently shown that children hailing from economically disadvantaged

backgrounds frequently find themselves compelled to engage in labor, which, in turn, poses hindrances to their educational access (Reyes, 2018 ^[11]; Edmonds, 2005).

The Philippines serves as a compelling backdrop for this study, given its struggle with the prevalence of child labor in regions characterized by elevated levels of poverty. This setting underscores the critical need to comprehend how economic necessity drives children from impoverished backgrounds to work, thereby creating formidable barriers to their educational pursuits. Dela Cruz's research substantially enriches the broader body of literature by providing specific insights into the intricate challenges faced by Filipino children entangled in the complex cycle of child labor and poverty, as well as the resulting implications for education.

Dela Cruz's research goes beyond merely identifying these challenges; it also shines a light on the often-devastating consequences of child labor and poverty for children's educational opportunities. This comprehensive examination of these interrelated issues contributes to a deeper understanding of the obstacles that disadvantaged children encounter in their quest for education. Moreover, the research methodology employed in this study adheres to rigorous empirical standards, ensuring that the findings are based on robust data and sound analysis. This methodological rigor enhances the existing literature and offers a comprehensive comprehension of the complex interplay between child labor, poverty, and education within the Philippines.

In summary, Dela Cruz's (2017) ^[4] study, "Child Labor, Poverty, and Education: The Philippine Experience," makes a substantial contribution to the field by providing insights into the challenges faced by economically disadvantaged children who are compelled to engage in child labor and the resulting impact on their access to education within the Philippine context. It aligns with the broader global literature by highlighting the intricate relationship between child labor, poverty, and education and underscores the pressing need for holistic solutions in the Philippines.

Child Labor on Educational Outcomes

The study conducted by Chen and Malik in 2018, titled "The Impact of Child Labor on Educational Outcomes: Evidence from Rural Mexico," makes a significant addition to the field of research on child labor and its consequences on education, with a specific focus on rural Mexico. Their work builds upon previous research that consistently highlights the challenging trade-off between child labor and school attendance. The study reveals that child labor often results in reduced school attendance, making it challenging for children to balance work and school commitments, especially in rural Mexico.

Furthermore, the study gives particular attention to the disparities in how child labor affects different genders. The researchers find that girls, in particular, face additional obstacles in pursuing education alongside their labor responsibilities. This resonates with existing literature on gender and child labor, emphasizing the need for policies and interventions that consider gender-related challenges. The research also reaffirms the significant role of economic necessity as a driving force behind child labor, especially in impoverished regions. Families in rural areas frequently rely on the income earned by working children to meet their basic needs. This aligns with previous studies that identify

poverty as a key factor contributing to child labor. However, this study underscores the urgency of addressing the economic factors that push children into the labor force. In terms of policy implications, the research aligns with the broader literature that supports targeted interventions. It emphasizes not only reducing child labor but also providing essential support to working children to ensure they have access to quality education. This is in line with the broader goal of breaking the cycle of child labor and poverty through education. The methodology used in the study, involving the rigorous analysis of longitudinal survey data using robust statistical methods, adheres to established standards for empirical research in this field. The authors' approach to examining data from rural Mexico contributes significantly to our understanding of child labor and education, particularly in specific regional contexts.

Child Labor and Educational Attainment in the Philippines

Tan's (2014) ^[17] study, titled "Child Labor and Educational Attainment in the Philippines: Evidence from a Longitudinal Study," addresses the crucial relationship between child labor and educational attainment in the Philippine context. The research employs longitudinal data to offer insights into how child labor influences children's school participation and educational achievements in the Philippines. The issue of child labor and its impact on education has been a subject of extensive research in both the Philippines and globally. Numerous studies have consistently pointed out the adverse consequences of child labor on children's access to education and their educational attainment (Edmonds, 2005; Beegle, Dehejia, & Gatti, 2006). Child labor often forces children to juggle their work responsibilities with their educational commitments, leading to lower school attendance and reduced academic performance.

The Philippine context provides a unique perspective for examining the child labor- education nexus. The country has a significant number of child laborers, and this situation is often exacerbated by economic necessity in impoverished regions (Ramos, 2020). The research by Tan (2014) ^[17] aligns with this broader literature by delving into the specific dynamics of child labor in the Philippines and how it affects educational attainment. In addition, Tan's study contributes to the understanding of child labor through the use of longitudinal data. Longitudinal studies are particularly valuable for tracing the long-term impacts of child labor on children's educational and life outcomes. The findings shed light on how early labor experiences can influence a child's educational trajectory over time.

The Philippines has been a focal point for the study of child labor due to the prevalence of child laborers in various regions of the country. This research aligns with the broader global literature on child labor's adverse consequences on education. Previous studies have consistently shown that child labor often results in lower school attendance and diminished academic performance (Edmonds, 2005; Beegle, Dehejia, & Gatti, 2006).

In the Philippine context, economic necessity is a primary driver of child labor, especially in economically disadvantaged regions where families rely on the income generated by their working children. This economic aspect underscores the challenges faced by children in balancing their work obligations with their educational pursuits (Ramos, 2020). Tan's research contributes to the

understanding of how these factors uniquely manifest in the Philippine context. One distinctive feature of Tan's study is its utilization of longitudinal data, which is valuable for exploring the long-term effects of child labor on children's educational outcomes. This approach allows for a comprehensive examination of how early labor experiences can influence a child's educational trajectory over time, shedding light on the persistent impacts of child labor on future prospects.

Child Labor on Academic Performance in the Philippines

Reyes' (2018) ^[11] study, titled "The Impact of Child Labor on Academic Performance in the Philippines," conducts a comprehensive examination of how child labor specifically affects the academic performance of Filipino children. This research delves into the intricate dynamics of managing both work and school responsibilities and the resulting consequences on educational outcomes within the Philippine context.

The correlation between child labor and academic performance holds paramount significance, not only in the Philippines but also on a global scale. Numerous prior studies consistently emphasize the challenges encountered by children engaged in labor, including irregular school attendance and diminished academic achievements (Tan, 2014 ^[17]; Edmonds, 2005). The particular relevance of the Philippine setting lies in the country's widespread prevalence of child labor across various regions. Reyes' research is well-positioned to explore the distinctive circumstances in which Filipino children navigate the dual roles of work and education. Consequently, it enriches the broader body of literature by providing specific insights into the intricate impact of child labor on academic performance in the Philippines.

Reyes' study enriches our comprehension of this issue by concentrating on academic performance as a fundamental facet of educational outcomes. It not only acknowledges the challenges posed by child labor but also critically evaluates its direct influence on children's capacity to excel academically. Methodologically, the research adheres to rigorous empirical standards, ensuring that the findings are founded on robust data and thorough analysis. This methodical rigor bolsters the existing literature by offering a comprehensive exploration of the relationship between child labor and academic performance within the Philippine context.

Furthermore, the relationship between child labor and academic performance stands as a central concern both in the Philippines and internationally. Existing research consistently underscores the hardships faced by children engaged in labor, encompassing irregular school attendance and decreased academic achievement (Tan, 2014 ^[17]; Edmonds, 2005). Reyes' study aligns with this broader research by providing a specific perspective on the experiences of Filipino children.

The prevalence of child labor in diverse regions of the Philippines underscores the urgency of this research. In the Philippines, many children are compelled to work to contribute to their family's income, underscoring the necessity of understanding how these circumstances impact their academic journeys. Reyes' study contributes significantly to the global discourse on child labor by offering valuable insights into the nuanced experiences of

Filipino children. Notably, Reyes' study sets itself apart by prioritizing academic performance as a pivotal component of educational outcomes. It not only acknowledges the challenges posed by child labor but also delves into how child labor directly influences a child's ability to excel academically, thereby enhancing the depth of the existing literature.

Child Labor and the Philippine Educational System

Santos' (2016) ^[12] study, titled "Child Labor and the Philippine Educational System: An Examination of Policy Gaps," significantly contributes to our comprehension of the interplay between child labor and the Philippine educational system. This research conducts a critical evaluation of how the educational system addresses the complexities of child labor and pinpoints potential policy deficiencies that could hinder the effective safeguarding of children's right to education. It sheds light on the intricacies and obstacles encountered in the enforcement of existing laws and policies related to child labor.

The connection between child labor and the educational system is of utmost importance, both within the Philippines and on a global scale. The existing body of literature consistently emphasizes the challenges posed by child labor, particularly how it disrupts children's access to education and adversely impacts their academic progression (Reyes, 2018; Tan, 2014) ^[11, 17].

The specific Philippine context, characterized by substantial child labor issues, underscores the pressing need for research of this nature, exemplified by Santos' (2016) ^[12] work. This study is positioned to offer valuable insights into how child labor policies and educational structures intersect within the Philippine context. It contributes to the broader academic discourse by highlighting areas within the policy landscape that may need enhancement to better protect children's educational rights. Santos' research augments our understanding by centering on the response of the Philippine educational system to child labor. It doesn't solely identify the challenges; it undertakes a critical appraisal of the existing legal and policy framework. This nuanced approach enriches the broader conversation by pinpointing specific areas where the implementation of child labor policies could be strengthened to ensure children's access to a quality education.

The interplay between child labor and the educational system remains a subject of paramount significance, not only in the Philippines but also on a global scale. Existing research consistently underscores the challenges posed by child labor, including its detrimental effects on children's access to education and their academic advancement (Reyes, 2018; Tan, 2014) ^[11, 17]. The specific Philippine context, characterized by substantial child labor challenges, further emphasizes the urgency of studies like Santos' (2016) ^[12]. This research is well-placed to provide valuable insights into the interconnected nature of child labor policies and the educational framework in the Philippines. It contributes depth to the broader literature by accentuating areas within the policy landscape that may necessitate improvement to better ensure the protection of children's rights to a quality education. Santos' research stands out by placing a spotlight on the response of the Philippine educational system to child labor. It goes beyond the identification of challenges, engaging in a critical evaluation of the prevailing legal and

policy framework, providing a nuanced perspective on the policy landscape. This enriches the broader discourse by identifying specific areas where policy implementation can be fortified to secure children's access to quality education.

Early Childhood Labor and Its Long-Term Consequences

The study conducted by Smith and Brown (2017) ^[15], titled "Early Childhood Labor and Its Long-Term Consequences: A Global Perspective," provides a thorough investigation of early childhood labor and its enduring effects on educational outcomes and overall development. This research adopts a worldwide approach, consolidating findings from diverse countries and regions, thus highlighting both shared patterns and distinctions in how child labor influences the lives of children.

The existing body of literature on child labor, often confined to specific regions or countries, has consistently underscored the far-reaching impacts of early labor engagement on children's lives. Research from countries such as India, Bangladesh, and Sub-Saharan Africa has unveiled the detrimental consequences of child labor on children's access to education, health, and psychosocial well-being (Basu, 1999; Ray, 2004; Roggero, 2002). Smith and Brown's global perspective builds upon this foundational research by providing a broader view that facilitates cross-cultural comparisons. The study aligns with the overarching literature on child labor, which emphasizes the multifaceted challenges faced by children who engage in labor at a young age. The physical and psychological toll of early labor, its potential to perpetuate cycles of poverty, and its implications for educational attainment have been recurring themes in child labor literature (Edmonds, 2005; Ray, 2004; Beegle, Dehejia, & Gatti, 2006).

Related Theories

Human Capital Theory: Human capital theory, a foundational economic concept, asserts that investing in education and skill development enhances an individual's human capital, ultimately elevating their earning potential (Becker, 1964). In the context of your study, child labor can be seen as an impediment to the accumulation of human capital. When children engage in labor at a young age, they may miss out on valuable educational opportunities, potentially resulting in diminished academic attainment and reduced future economic prospects.

Cycle of Poverty: The theory of the cycle of poverty posits that individuals born into impoverished circumstances are more likely to remain in poverty due to limited access to quality education and economic opportunities (Bane & Ellwood, 1986). Child labor can compound this cycle as it can obstruct a child's education, reducing their chances of breaking free from the cycle and achieving upward mobility.

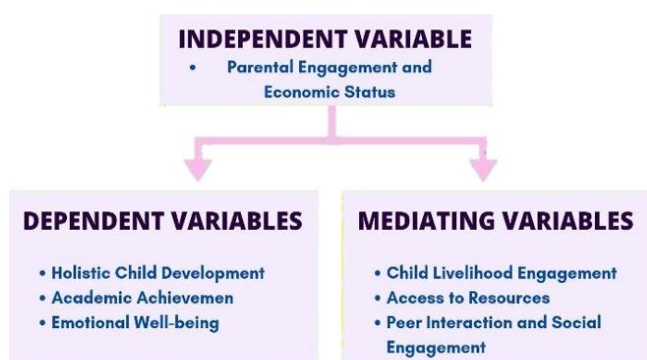
Social Reproduction Theory: The social reproduction theory focuses on how societal structures and inequalities are perpetuated from one generation to the next (Bourdieu & Passeron, 1977). Child labor can be viewed as a mechanism that perpetuates poverty and social inequality by constraining access to quality education and opportunities for affected children, thereby perpetuating the cycle of disadvantage.

Education Production Function: The framework of the education production function examines the various factors that contribute to educational outcomes (Hanushek, 1979). In the context of your research, child labor may be considered an adverse input that diminishes the efficiency of the education production function, resulting in reduced academic achievement for children engaged in labor.

Social Learning Theory: Grounded in psychology, social learning theory posits that individuals acquire behaviors through observation and imitation (Bandura, 1977). Concerning child labor, children engaged in early labor may adopt patterns of work and economic activities, potentially at the cost of their education and academic development.

Economic Opportunity Cost Theory: Economic opportunity cost theory involves evaluating the advantages of immediate income from work against the long-term costs of reduced education and limited future earning potential (Schultz, 1961). Child labor can be analyzed through this perspective, as it compels children to make a trade-off between immediate income and the potential long-term costs associated with diminished academic achievement. In the context of our study on child labor and holistic development, the application of various economic and sociological theories provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the multifaceted impact of child labor. Human Capital Theory underscores the significance of education and skill development in shaping children's future economic prospects, highlighting how child labor can impede the accumulation of human capital. Simultaneously, the Cycle of Poverty theory elucidates how child labor contributes to the perpetuation of poverty, emphasizing the importance of breaking this cycle by addressing child labor's hindrance to education and economic opportunities. Social Reproduction Theory reveals how child labor can perpetuate social inequalities, as it restricts access to quality education and opportunities, further entrenching the cycle of disadvantage. Examining the Education Production Function, we can understand how child labor adversely affects educational outcomes, diminishing academic achievement. Additionally, Social Learning Theory illuminates how children exposed to early labor may imitate work-related behaviors at the expense of their education. Lastly, the Economic Opportunity Cost Theory provides a cost-benefit perspective, illustrating how child labor forces children to weigh immediate income against long-term costs, emphasizing the need to address child labor's impact on children's holistic development comprehensively.

Theoretical-Conceptual Framework



Research Methodology

This chapter includes the research design, research environment, research respondents, research instrument, and data procedure.

Research Design

The study will use a case study research approach to comprehend the parents' perspective on children's livelihood engagement. A qualitative approach on gathering in-depth data will be used in interviewing the respondents through guide questions with follow-up intervention of questions to produce a precise and detailed retort from the response of the parents.

Research Environment

The study will be conducted at Barangay Pasil located in the north district of Cebu City. The criteria considered in the selection of the environment included the accessibility of the area, coordination and collaboration of the parents as respondents.

Research Respondents

The research participants in this study comprise four selected parents from Barangay Pasil, Cebu City, each of whom has a child (8 to 17 years old) either engaged in an early means of making a living or not. Their cooperation and viewpoints about the perspective on children's livelihood engagement holds great significance in this study. The research participants will provide valuable insights into the intricate dynamics of child labor and its perspective, offering a well- rounded understanding of the opportunities and challenges within this particular community.

Research Instrument

This instrument is designed for conducting interviews with the selected parents of Barangay Pasil, Cebu City. It includes probing questions to gather in-depth qualitative data and a follow-up question based on the response of the participants.

Guide Interview Questions

1. When you hear the word child-labor, what comes to your mind?
2. For you, what are the reasons why children start working at an early age?
3. What are your perceptions of child labor?

(Note: The researchers personally crafted the guide questions for the target participants. No reference was utilized in the research instrument.)

Data Procedure

Questionnaires were distributed to the respondents in the means of interview. The researchers then gathered their answer through voice records and by taking down notes. After gathering the data responses, the researchers analyzed and synthesized the data about parents' perspectives on children's livelihood engagement.

Treatment of Data

Data Coding

A coding technique will be used to encode the data, which will be determined by the data itself. Themes, classifications, and patterns relating to parents' perspectives on children's livelihood engagement will be methodically applied to each transcript.

Theme Development

The development of themes will be based on recurring patterns found throughout the coding process. These topics will reflect the parents' perspectives on children's livelihood engagement.

Data Synthesis

In order to create a coherent narrative that examines parents' perspectives on children's livelihood engagement, the synthesis data will be organized around the themes that have been established.

Reporting Findings

The study's findings will be presented in a clear and comprehensive manner, including the voices of the selected parents. The findings will be examined in connection to the study objectives, and noteworthy findings will be shown with quotes.

Ethical Considerations

The researchers will prioritize ethical considerations throughout the data procedure and treatment:

Conflict of Interest

The researchers will ensure that the study's objectives will remain unbiased and impartial as this study is conducted for educational purposes.

Informed Consent

The research participant will be informed about the research's purpose and nature. Written consent will be obtained from selected parents ensuring their understanding and approval of their participation in the study.

Privacy and Confidentiality

Any personally identifiable information such as participant's identities, including names and specific locations, will not be disclosed from the research data to protect their privacy. Other research data, including transcripts and field notes, will be stored securely to maintain confidentiality.

Risks

This study acknowledges the importance of ensuring the participant's safety and well-being, rest assured that this research poses no physical or psychological risk. Qualitative data will be collected through in-depth and semi-structured interviews, should the participant feel uncomfortable, they will have the right to discontinue their participation without consequences.

Recruitment

The recruitment for this study's participants will be done voluntarily, along with consent. They will be provided with clear information about the research's purpose along with its procedures.

Benefit

The participants and future researchers may benefit from the study as the insights gained from this study may lead to recommendations and resources that will benefit one's educational journey.

Incentives

The researchers will provide participants a token of

appreciation and this will not in any way tied to their responses nor influence their participation in the study.

Collaborative Study Terms of Reference

This research does not involve any collaborative study terms and is solely intended to gain and understand the parents' perspectives on children's livelihood engagement. This study is committed to uphold the highest ethical standards.

Results and Discussion

This chapter presents the analysis and interpretation of data gathered from the answers to the questionnaires distributed to the field. The said data were presented in tabular form in accordance with the specific questions posited on the statement of the problem.

Major Theme #1: *Parent's Definition of Child Labor*

The collected data reveals a predominant understanding among parents regarding the concept of "Child Labor." A prevalent view emerges, with the majority articulating the notion of children engaging in work at a young age primarily to secure income for themselves and to support their families and education.

Participant 1's statement vividly portrays the economic imperative behind child labor, emphasizing the pursuit of income for personal and familial needs: *"Mga batan-on nga sayo kaayu nga nagkuan og trabaho... para aduna silay ma-income, maikagasto sa ilang kaugalingon, makahatag sila sa ilahang needs, unya makatabang sa ilang ginikanan ug pamilya."*

This underscores a prevalent perception that economic circumstances propel children into the workforce, often at the expense of their educational pursuits.

Additionally, Participant 3's perspective sheds light on parental recognition of the hardships influencing a child's decision to work: *"Siguro ang akong masulti kay kanang nag trabaho siya tungod siguro sa iyang kalisud."*

This viewpoint implies an understanding among parents that a child's labor stems from prevailing challenges, indicating empathy towards their children's struggles.

The analysis aligns with existing literature emphasizing the correlation between child labor and economic factors, wherein financial strain drives children to work, impacting their educational pursuits. It also emphasizes the recognition of parental awareness regarding the struggles their children encounter, linking their engagement in labor to mitigating their hardships. Additionally, the link to prior research by Reyes (2018)^[11] and Tan (2014)^[17] supports the premise that child labor disrupts educational access, further reinforcing the idea that parental understanding of child labor is closely intertwined with its impact on their children's education and overall well-being.

Sub-theme: *Understanding of Parent's of the Child Labor*

Throughout the interview-based data collection process, a clear understanding of parents' immediate perspectives on child labor becomes evident. This specific sub-theme, titled "Parental Perspectives on Child Labor," illuminates nuanced viewpoints regarding children engaged in work. Participant

1's perspective emphasizes pragmatism, underscoring the necessity of income for personal and family sustenance. Conversely, Participant 3's viewpoint acknowledges that children might work due to hardship, reflecting empathy toward their circumstances. This sub-theme uncovers a spectrum of parental understanding, ranging from practical considerations of financial support to compassionate recognition of the challenges compelling children to work. This diversity highlights the intricate nature of parental perceptions, shaped by socio-economic conditions and individual experiences.

Moreover, these findings, in conjunction with established literature, emphasize the intricate link between child labor and education. The parental viewpoints revealed in this study reinforce the critical correlation between a child's work and its impact on educational opportunities. This underscores the urgent need for interventions addressing both economic hardships and educational barriers to effectively combat child labor.

Major Theme #2: Parents' Awareness of Child Labor

One of the major themes derived from the gathered data is the parents' awareness of the necessity for children to engage in labor activities at their young age. Majority of the parents that the researchers interviewed relate the child labor as a factor that affect the academic achievement and holistic development of the children.

"Sa akoo lang, sa kining mga batan-on, dili ko pabor sa pag trabaho kay bisan gi-enroll og pa skwela, mo absent kay mangwarta. Kadugayan kay mo hunong na lang og eskwela." Stated by Participant 1.

"Di, kay bata pa raba so dapat raba ikaw as a parent imoha gyud nang kuan ba imoha gyud nang responsibilidad ba nga ikaw mo buhi sa imong anak dili kay ang bata may maglihok para lang imohang kuan matabangan ka sa bata." Stated by Participant 3.

"Kuan siguro maapektuhan gyud ang pag eskwela sa bata kung naa pa siyay kuanon nga panghunahuna-on nga trabaho so dapat kung ang bata gani mo eskwela so kana lang sa iyang hunahuna-on so dili lang sa siya mo kuan lang sad og work kay obligasyon gyud baya na sa ginikanan nga siyay mo kuan sa mga bata nga mo hatag sa needs og wants sa mga bata." Stated by Participant 4

This statement underscores concerns regarding the potential conflict between engaging in labor activities and maintaining consistent attendance in educational institutions. A study conducted by Edmonds and Pavcnik (2015) offers insights into the impact of parental attitudes and perspectives on child labor. The study highlighted how parental awareness and recognition of the risks associated with child labor significantly influence children's involvement in work activities.

Sub-theme: Early Recognition of Child Labor as an Educational Concern

The proactive recognition of child labor by parents was evident during the interview session. Some parents recognized this as an issue and a concern, leading to them not allowing their own child to do such work. Other parents

view this as an opportunity for extra income. With this early recognition, parents can formulate an intervention plan to bridge the identified gaps, thereby contributing to an alternative perspective where children can prioritize both their education and holistic development. The early recognition of child labor as an educational concern by parents constitutes a crucial element in cultivating a supportive environment for children's learning. Equipping parents with the requisite knowledge and tools to identify and address child labor issues is imperative. In doing so, society collectively plays a pivotal role in breaking the cycle of child labor and fostering a future wherein every child has the opportunity for a fulfilling and uninterrupted education.

Major Theme #3: Factor Influencing Parents' Perceptions

Another major theme from the data collected is the factor influencing parents' perceptions on the children's livelihood engagement. Majority of the respondents interviewed by the researchers stated that poverty is one of the reasons why children at an early age engage in livelihood activities.

"Sa akong na obserbahan sa iyaha kay nasuya siya sa uban, gusto siya og kaugalingon pangwarta, sa kapobrehon, ug sa kadaghanan sa ilang pamilya." Stated by Participant 1

"Mga rason nganong manarbaho: Una, motabang sa pamilya. "Kung tan-awon lang, suportta sa ilang Mama, labi na sa kalisod, ug tabang sa pamilya." Stated by Participant 2

"Ang ako ra gyud makuanan kay ang bata naa lay kuan sa iyahang parents ba nga iyaha lang matabangan ang iyahang inahan nga tan-aw siguro sa bata nga dili makaya sa iyahang mama nga ang inahan ray mo buhi nila so ang ilahang kuan nga dapat sila mo lihoc para ilang inahan ila matabangan bitaw." Stated by Participant 3

"Kuan looy, pariha anang uban nga walay bawn, way palit bugas, way palit pagkaon nila unsa pa na." Stated by Participant 4

The interview revealed that the major factor why children at an early age engaged in livelihood activities is poverty. This statement underscores the urgency of addressing the economic factors that push children into the labor force. Chen and Malik (2018) families in rural areas frequently rely on the income earned by working children to meet their basic needs. Additionally, it emphasizes the economic factors that drive child labor in the Philippines. Poverty remains a central driver, pushing children into the labor force to contribute to their family's income. This aligns with broader discussions on the socioeconomic determinants of child labor (Ramos, 2020).

Major Theme #4: Parents Perceived Impact on Children's Holistic Development

An additional major theme from the data collected is how parents perceive impact on children's holistic development. Most of the parents interviewed by the researchers see child labor as a factor affecting their children's overall growth and development.

Participant 1 stated that: *"Bisan gi-enroll og pa skwela, mo absent kay mangwarta. Kadugayan kay mo hunong na lang og eskwela"*.

Participant 2 stated that: *"Maayo siya mo- atiman ug maghuna-huna sa iyang pamilya, labi na sa iyang mga igsoon, kay aduna siya'y mga manghod, mahatag pud niya ang tabang sa ilang ginikanan og makita sa iyang grado nga ma- balance ra pud ang iyang trabaho"*.

Participant 3 stated that *"Ang ako ra gyud makuanan kay ang bata naa lay kuan sa iyahang parents ba nga iyaha lang matabangan ang iyahang inahan nga tan-aw siguro sa bata nga dili makaya sa iyahang mama nga ang inahan ray mo buhi nila"*.

Participant 4 stated that: *"Pariha anang uban ginikanan nga nag lisod maka huna-huna ang bata nga mo trabaho kay tungod nag lisod jud sila"*.

The response of the participant shows how they view child labor that according to Adonteng-Kissi, O. (2023) ^[1] it depends on the conditions and the cultural setting of the family that some for better options to cope up the needs in order to contribute to the family's income, that parents in many economically struggling regions may see child work as an essential necessity. This shows how the children's holistic development can delve into the health effects of child labor, by providing insights of how early involvement in various labor activities can affect a child's physical and mental well-being (Edmonds 2017) ^[5].

Sub-theme: Examining Academic Triumphs of Children in Labor

As the parents view the holistic development of the children who engaged in early labor, it also shows their academic performance despite having responsibilities. Some parents recognized this as a concern, leading them to not allowing their own child to have work since it really affects their academic performance. One parent views this as an appreciation because her child is not pressured to do work but is performing well in school. This concludes that despite having early influence in labor, there is still an academic triumph that it genuinely depends on how to manage the situation.

Conclusion

The researchers found a consistent theme among the participants regarding the motivations behind child labor. Primarily, children engage in labor at an early age to contribute to family finances and alleviate the financial burden experienced by their parents. This involvement is often driven by a desire to assist with daily expenses, support family members, and ensure the fulfillment of basic needs, especially during challenging times or in impoverished circumstances. Additionally, there is a strong association between child labor and academic performance. Participants expressed concerns about the negative impact of employment on a child's education. They observed that when children are involved in work, they often face challenges in balancing their responsibilities, resulting in decreased attendance and diminished focus on academic pursuits. This situation contributes to a decline in

educational achievement, potentially hindering the child's future prospects. Overall, the prevalent reasons for children entering the workforce early revolve around economic necessity, particularly to support their families financially and address basic needs. This participation in labor, while driven by noble intentions to alleviate familial hardship, poses a significant challenge to the educational pursuits and holistic development of these children.

Summary of the study

The purpose of this study is to determine how parents perceive child labor and its impact on the academic performance of children in Pasil Cebu City. Specifically, this study aims to answer the following research questions: 1) when you hear the word child-labor, what comes to your mind? 2) For you, what are the reasons why children start working at an early age? 3) What are your perceptions of child labor and its impact on academic achievement? The Data and Information were gathered on November 12, 2023, at Barangay Pasil, Cebu City. A respondents of parents with/out a child that is engaged in early responsibilities. In conducting this study, the respondents undergo the interview with the use of purposive sampling method. The face-to-face interview and observation are the methods used in gathering the data.

Recommendations

With the research findings and results the researchers have come up with recommendations that were seen as necessary to adhere to these parents as well as the children engage in livelihood activities.

First, to the teachers to be more considerate and have time to talk to the child especially if the academic performance of the student is inconsistent.

Second, to the parents to provide financial support to their children in their education. From the interview one of the participants stated that the parents have the responsibility to sustain the needs and wants of their children.

Lastly, for future researchers to look into more studies regarding the parents' perspectives on children's livelihood engagement towards holistic development because there seems to be a lack of studies done locally.

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