

## An Assessment and Mapping of Street Hawking in Kano Metropolis, Kano State, Nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

The paper explores the cultural attitudes of buying and selling along the road side popularly known as Street Hawking. The aim of it is to offer explanation on the reasons for the perpetuity of the attitudes despite the Kano State Government's effort to settle down the persons involved in designated areas within the metropolis. In this study, areas and reasons for the Street Hawking were identified; risks and inconveniences of the activities of the hawking as well as people responses were examined. It is a cross sectional research that involves both quantitative and qualitative type of data. Number of hawkers at clusters/points and hawking preferences were all captured. Questionnaires and interviews were employed for the quantitative and qualitative data collection respectively. The study discovered that road junctions and round-about are the areas of dense hawking activities followed by commuter stations and bus stops. Problem of parking spaces at the market sites and shopping complexes for shopping make many people to patronize hawking. Some people describe hawking as an 'at side' opportunity for buyers from wasting time to locate where certain goods are sold in the market. Many people described the act as nuisance, due to risk involved especially in crossing of roads by the chasing hawkers in trying to reach a customer. The action which is often tagged 'aggressive marketing'. Many hawkers sustain injuries in the process, or loss some of their merchandise into moving vehicles and a time collect fake currency notes unknowingly. Some road users also complain of congestion as a result of hawking along the roads. High rent of shops, Kiosks and selling spaces/points made many people to adopt hawking coupled with their low capital base. Majority of the Hawkers collect the goods from some distributors without paying and only to make returns after sales are made. The study pathetically discovered that the profits accrued to Hawkers are too meager since they have no much time to bargain the buying price with people in moving vehicles and have no right to bargain with their distributors due to lack of capital base. The loitering under the sun and rain affects their health (mental and moral) hence at high risk of ailment. The study recommends for provision of business outlets at strategic positions to reduce the cost of rent in the bigger markets for the poor to earn living with minimum duress.

**Keywords:** Preference, mapping, street hawking, value, segregation, a side

## INTRODUCTION AND CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND

Hawking can simply mean the activities that involve offering goods/services for sale by calling, shouting or by nagging from place to place looking for patronage. For (UNICEF, 2000) the term street hawking refers to the individuals on the street who are at work by the day time and retire back home at sunset. In most of the time street hawkers work and live on the street and have very little contact with parents or guardians. According to (Halima, 2007), developing nations still suffer from street hawking because children within the range of age of going to school are engaged in various form of economic hardship, Majority of people that involve in hawking in the street are exposed to various form of hazard and risks that reduce their thinking ability, as well suffers teasing and mockery by passerby which make them frustrated and disgusted in the eye of people. The cheapness of children, their patience and low living taste make the easy victims in the culture of hawking.

Street hawkers form the largest group of street people that are visible and found everywhere with their wares. They are those who are seen in the street dashing between cars. In many times with low return, (Halima, 2007) they learn to tell lies to escape confinement by police and to other parents/guardians or other adults when they anticipate punishment or disapproval.

However, in most of the urban centres across the Nigerian states, street hawking has persisted; this is because it has become a source of earning to traders who are unable to rent shops in the cities. In addition, street hawking has denied many children of school. However, street hawking in urban metropolis of Nigeria is part of everyday life. Children between years seven to ten are involved in the practice which has effect on their health, education and wellbeing.

They sometimes chase moving vehicle in the traffic of highways, while adult men rarely carry trays on their head, they usually settle as newspaper vendors, or selling things like sport articles and fashion wears. In Nigeria, children have traditionally been seen as assets to assist within households, and form chores. However, with increase in unemployment, a millions of children have been forced into new types of labour that are exploitative, hazardous and prejudicial to their welfare and development which make them to be exposed into the streets as hawkers particularly those in rural areas (UNICEF, 2000).

Since rural areas were hardest living places, migration became rampant and the major cities swelled, the migration as cycle continued. parents and family began to take risks in an attempt to escape poverty and improve their standard of living through sending their children to the street to hawk as a domestic helpers and also accept the practice such as placing and fostering children to the home relative (UNICEF, 2000).

The street hawkers, both children and adult travel all the way to the urban areas along the road side going through the obvious risks of accident in order to hawk. They trek a long distance with their wares looking for buyers, they run in between vehicles in traffic reaching dangerous diseases like asthma by inhaling the carbon monoxide coming from the exhaust pipes and they are sometimes hit by vehicles.

As informal commerce, has grown to become the lifeblood of African cities. Significant number of constructed markets reveal that the underlying reason why people sale on the street and pavement is mainly as a result of unemployment or due to the limited job opportunities and poverty. Despite the fact that many of varying ages and sex are engaged in hawking, the youths are the most dominant. In many developing countries, children constitute about one third of the total population. Millions of these children do not have the opportunity of being properly and adequately taken care of by their parents, guardians, and the community in which they live. Many of them have to be engaged in hawking, begging, touting, prostitution etc to make ends mean. These children, who are regarded as custodian of the society's future, end up becoming a nuisance to their societies, primarily due to the abuse and neglect of their rights.

Oloko, 2002 in Murtala (2014), opined that street hawking as an aspect of child labour has become a social problem that has engaged the attention of professional social workers, scholars, policy makers and the general public for years. Most of the people see street hawking as a violation of the rights of children as well as hindrance to their welfare. The Association of Nigerian Women (ANW) asserted that economic predicament had forced millions of families to find ways of supplementing their income and which their children become the centerpiece of such decision. Thus, families are hereby exposing their children to various economic activities, such as street hawking, hard labor-menial job, which are harsh to them, which occurred in three levels; exposure to overt genital seduction, exposure to genital stimulation, and witnessing adult in the act of sex.

### **Statement of the Research Problem**

In the third world countries due to high level of poverty and illiteracy, children are exposed to various forms of challenges in the process of making a living. The street hawking in Nigeria has become a menace in all urban centers due to its magnitude, spread and effect. Hawking, apart from being nuisance it is also considered as a child labour. The circumstances that emanates from economic hardship since the last quarter of the twentieth century made people to jump into any type of occupation without selection. Hawking is unorganized commercial activity which happens among low income parents and guardians as a copied strategy.

Hawking in a street is a socialization process which prepares the child for an adult economy, social life as well (Ruth, 1996).

Many parents in urban areas are also of the opinion that they are allowing their children to be in petty trading due to the high level of poverty. Social and cultural factors in some areas push children into the street or in the child labor force (Carison, 1998).

Children with histories of maltreatment, such as physical abuse are at the risks of developing severe psychiatric problems (Halima, 2007). This situation of children in developing nations is more than a victim of political stagnation, but living condition has deteriorated especially so in urban areas in comparing with country side (Youth Voice, 2008). That is the reason why one of the governors in Nigeria noted that the volume of commercial and unauthorized activities on the road side has to be eliminated, and a law was made in order to redefine the status of the state by eliminating any commercial activities on the roads. Even at federal level, it is an issue but due to the little attention given to it has become a failure. Therefore, there is need to make series of studies in order find out the magnitude, courses, effects, and dangers of street hawking and its implication to the development of a society, as well as to proffer solutions on how to manage situation. Kano metropolis is one of the rapidly growing urban centres in the developing world which are characterized by such menace. As such, this study is worth undertaken.

### Research Questions:

- 1 What are the commonest cluster points of street hawking in the study area?
- 2 Why does Hawking perpetuate in the study area?
- 3 What are the people's views and responses about the street hawking in the study area?
- 4 Where can the Hawkers be settled in the study area?

### Aim and objectives

The aim of this research is to investigate the socio-economic variables of street hawking in Kano metropolis purposely to elucidate the trend involved so as to proffer better ways of handling the issue while formulating future planning strategies.

### Objectives

To achieve the above aim the following objectives are to be followed:-

1. To identify the major reasons for adopting hawking as a livelihood option.
2. To seek for responses from the public about implication of hawking in the study area.

3. To offer some recommendations that can help in alleviating the problems leading to street hawking.

### **Justification of the Study**

This research is relevant and timely due to the problems emanating from street hawking which is one of child abuses and neglects. Looking at various efforts by State Governments over the years to alleviate poverty by providing employment to youths, it is an indication of an attempt to bring such a menace to an end. A recent survey indicates that in sub Saharan African countries, thirty one percent (31%) of children aged between five, eight and above are engaged in various forms of labour such as slavery, trafficking and forced recruitment for armed conflicts and other hazardous work. Therefore, it becomes necessary to make researches in order to avoid this kind of problems.

The most important aspect of this research is to ascertain to which extent hawking affects the youths involved in the activity, both educationally and socially in the study area (Kano metropolis). However, the study further aims at finding problems associated with hawking, its effects, and its implications on development, so as to help the agencies, law makers and other organizations that work against child abuse and neglects in general. Another import for this research is that, it will help to a great extent in understanding the major factors that motivate parents to send their children to hawk. it also serves as a stepping stone for further researches in the same field by broadening the scope and other related studies also which can assist the policy makers (i.e. legislators) to formulate laws, which will at least in the long term help to tackle the problem of street hawking in the state.

### **Conceptual Underpinning**

For quite long, the attention of the developed countries was driven towards issues relating to children upbringing. The first major aspect of protecting and promoting the child started with the adaptation of generation declaration on the rights of a child in 1924 by the League of Nations. The convention of the rights of a child has become the most widely ratified in the history of world. Nigeria also signed the convention on the rights of the child on March 21, 1991. Africa charter on the rights and welfare of the child was promulgated on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, 1999. The welfare of children has been legally recognized in Nigeria since 1943 when the child and young people's ordinance was first enacted and culminated with the signing of the child rights act in 2003 but childhood in Nigeria is a period of great deprivation and hardship for most children. Abject poverty, cultural taboos and confusing norms and values produced by clashing western, traditional, urban and rural lifestyles make especially children susceptible in Nigeria today. Over half of the population in our

society today lives whining the vicious circle of poverty, ill health, hunger and ignorance. In spite of Nigerians wealth, the poor constitutes about 70% of the Nigerian population of over 120 million and about the same number are living below \$1 a day (UNICEF, 2000) and as reported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) showed Nigeria as the 26<sup>th</sup> poorest nation in the world with the vast minerals, oil, water, land, human resources. Many Nigerians live on less than \$1.00 (one US Dollar) per day.

### The Study Area

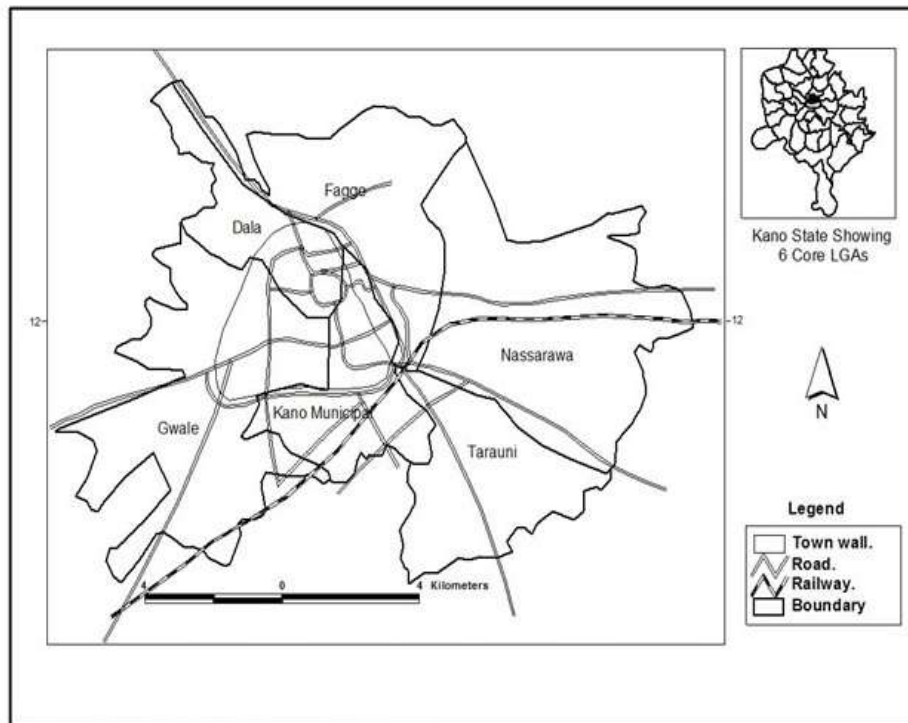
Kano city (metropolis) has been the capital of the state since its creation in 1967 from the defund Northern Region, located between lat 10°03' to 12°30'N and long 7°30' to 9°25'E about 840km from the edge of the Sahara desert. It has a mean height of 472.45m above sea level with average temperature of 14.4°C (range between 15.8 to 33°C). Its mean monthly values for temperature ranges from 21°C in coolest month and 31°C in the hottest month. The average rainfall in a normal situation is about 1000mm in southern Kano and 800mm around the metropolis (Olofin, 1987).

Kano metropolis is the second largest industrial and commercial center in Nigeria. It is therefore experiencing a rapid growth rate from pre-colonial to post-colonial era. In 1932, the population was estimated to be only 83,000. Urban Kano has been subject to rapid growth since 1952 and exorbitant growth from 1958 onwards. By the 1991 census the population had increased to 1.6 million. Based on the natural growth rate of Nigeria's population at 2.5%, the projected population of Kano would be, 1,253,000 in 1985, 1,794,000 in 1995 and 2,480,000 in 2005. The provisional population figure from the 2006 census for Kano metropolis is 2,828,861 (National Population Commission, 2007). This rapid expansion of the city may not be unconnected with historical factors of security (city wall) as depicted in fig.1 below and its commercial status within the Trans-Saharan trades. Hausa and Fulani otherwise known as Hausa-Fulani predominantly peopled the state. Other dominant ethnic groups in Kano include the Yorubas and Ibo (accounting for the large segment of the non-indigenous population), Nupe, Tiv, Idoma and many others. The dominant religion in the urban Kano is Islam followed by Christianity mainly by the Non-indigenes. The culture of Kano people is Hausa-Islamic culture, in that ethnicity and religion are so interwoven that a distinction is hardly discernible.

It cannot be said with certainty when Islam came to Hausa land and as well to Kano (Ashafa, 1982). Barbushe predicted that 'some nation will come and take this land from our hands and build Mosques' (Gidado, 1953 in Paden, 1973). Islamic period in the study area dated from 1380-1800 when Wangarawa missionaries from Mali arrived Kano and heralding the onset of Islam in the kingdom during the reign

of King Tsamiya son of Yaji within 1349-1385AD (Ashafa, 1982). Muhammad Rumfa and his predecessors were the earlier Muslims emirs of Kano as from 1463 to date (Adamu, 1999 and Paden, 1973). The early conversion of Islam in Kano involved the Sharifai who involved in the Tran-Saharan Kano-Tripoli trade route. Mass mobility of Hausa Muslims gave them advantage of social intercourse, inter-marriages with other civilizations (Paden, 1973).

Figure 1: Map of the study area showing various wards in Nassarawa LGA



Source: Department of Geog. BUK (2012)

Source: Adopted from Lambu, 2013

## RESEARCH METHODS

### Types of Data

It is a cross sectional research dealing with socio-economic and socio-cultural parameters. Precisely, there are two types of data in this research that is, quantitative and qualitative data. The quantitative data gives information on sex, numerical indices like number of children and so on while the sex preferences and perception of respondents and other behavioral information are held as qualitative type of data.

## Sources of Data

Principally there are two sources of data for the purpose of this research. Though one is the most significant but the second source also supports the data collection

- a. Primary Sources of Data
- b. Secondary Sources of Data

## Primary Sources of Data

The Researcher constructed data or primary source of data were obtained through interviews and questionnaire administration to obtain information related to age, sex, income, number of people involved while perception and preferences are qualitative that were captured by interviews..

## Secondary Sources of Data

Documented source of data can be obtained in published, unpublished projects, textbooks and journals. It includes information about the problems of children preferences. Quite numerous studies on family related issues were conducted especially by sociologists, anthropologists and even by educationists. All these were adopted by this study to buttress the primary data collected in the field.

## Data collection

The exact number of family entities in Kano metropolis is not statistically known. There are no censuses or registers to show the number of spouses or couples in Kano metropolis. However, for the purpose of this research the target population comprises of both children and the adults of both sexes. Therefore, non probability sampling is more suitable to this study.

## Sampling Methods

The sampling methods adopted were non probability sampling techniques since there is no sample frame. Purposively sampling technique was used for the selection of the major streets and hawking points and interviews were conducted on the distributors of the merchandises and agencies involved in the activity. From each of the ten streets, 10 respondents were randomly selected for the interviews along the major streets of Hawking activities.

## Interviews

Interactive interviews were conducted at various road junctions and with hawkers in the study area; at the onset of discussion attempt was made to explain the purpose of the research. Thus, 100respondents were in all interviewed which is about 10% of the total respondents, based on the number of street. The 10% is



considered adequate as opined by al-umar (2001) as quoted by (Lambu, 2009; 2012 and 2014).

### Questionnaire administration

Questionnaires were distributed at the selected streets in the study area. The responses from Hawkers and patronizers were collected. The question is based on causes of hawking, its effects and its implication on the society and way of overcoming this problem.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Major places of Street Hawking in Kano Metropolis

1. Zaria Road
2. BUK "
3. ZOO "
4. Sabon Titi "
5. Ibrahim Taiwo "
6. Gwammaja "
7. IBB way
8. France Road
9. Murtala Muhammed way
10. Aminu Kano way



The Roasted maize sellers

Source: Field work 2014

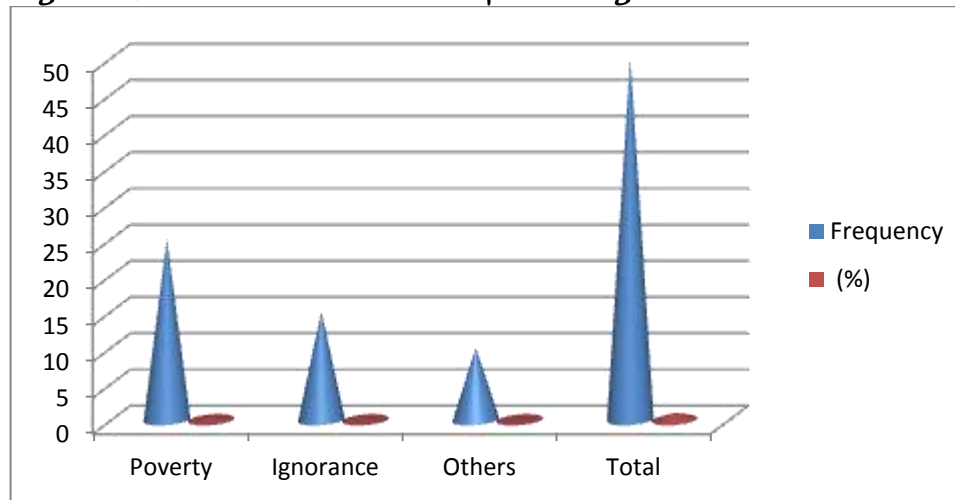
### Major Areas of Street Hawking in the Study Area

The study identified 10 major routes with 30 junctions in the study area where hawking is taking place, they include Na'ibawa fly over, mega station round about, Maiduguri road by dan marke, Maiduguri road by mobile barrack, Maiduguri road

by tarauni, Dangi round about, zoo road by Court road, Dan Agundi junction, Gadon gaya, Kabuga, Civic center, Isyaka Rabi'u, Fagge Round about, Bakin Asibiti, Kofar Mata, Kofal Mazogal, and Gidan Malam Aminu Kano, Kwari junction, Kofar Wanbai junction, Abattoir junction, France road by stadium, France road by Galadima, France road by yan Kura and France road by Market respectively.

The major high ways in Kano metropolis have the high population of hawkers. All portable goods are on sales at the junctions. Reasons for selling all these products are stated by the respondents (hawkers) when they were interviewed they responded that, Zaria road has high density vehicle coming in to metropolis for commercial activities. Immediately on arrival they need to buy things like soft drinks and water to quench their thirst, and some people are travelers who arrived from different business or working places outside Kano so they buy things for their kids like children toys, and for their family for them not to go to their houses with empty hands.

Fig.1 Public Views on the Causes of Hawking



Source: Field work, 2015

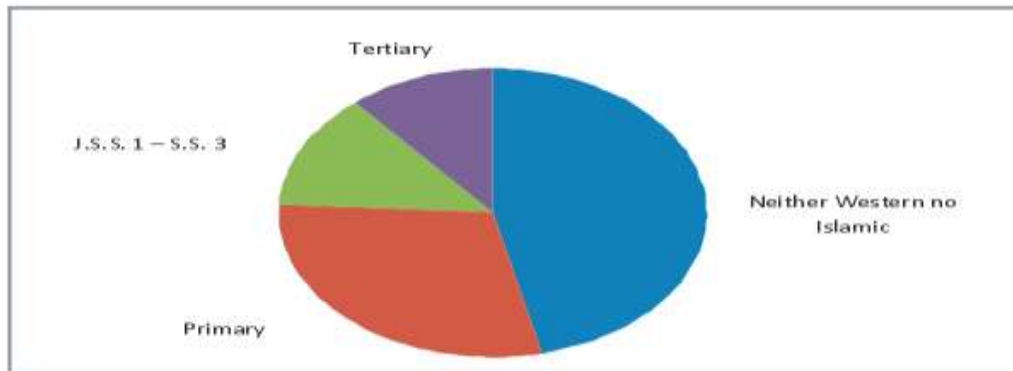
The result from the data collected indicated that the causes/reasons for street hawking in study area are attributed to many factors; such as poverty, ignorance and lack of public enlightenment. Though some respondents gave reason that is not within the above categories for street hawking for instance like loss of parent. Poverty constitute the highest opinion of people therefore there is problem of short life expectancy and malnutrition, illiteracy and diseases which all these are associated with poverty problems.

**Table 1: Public View about the Effects of Hawking**

Effect	FREQUENCY	(%)
Crime	31	62%
Illiteracy	19	38%
Total 50	50	100%

Source: Field work, 2014

Many respondents are of the view that practice of street hawking lead to certain problems to the society like drug abuse and crime, and also immorality can influences high crises like jagaliya and even political violence while others are of the opinion that street hawking lead to school dropout. This can be counted as the most serious problems because knowledge is said to be the backbone for the development of every society. Therefore there will be problems of high illiteracy in the society lawful youth with unpredicted feature on the environment. The most affected people in this situation are coming from the lower class family and the whole issue can be link to struggle for survival apart from the school dropout.



**Fig.2: Level of literacy attainment by the Hawkers**

## CONCLUSION

It can be emphatically stated that all the junctions and roundabouts are currently occupied by street hawkers. Consequently, the activities of Hawkers constitute some nuisance through causing of congestion which affects traffic flow and sometimes causing accidents. Both male and female children, youths and adults are on the streets selling commodities due to pervasive poverty and lack of awareness of the implications and risks involved.

Hawking affects children's education and general upbringing due to the time they waste on the roads swinging from one vehicle to another, running helter-skelter

aggressively forcing their commodities to vehicle owners, drivers and passengers to buy. Over 72% of children engaging in the hawking activities are either drop-outs or who have never been to school in their life time.

The study concludes that Hawking depreciates the health, frustrate minds and kills morals due to the hardship, boredom and duress it causes, hence many of them engage in smoking, drug abuses and thuggery.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The study also recommends that poverty alleviation must be intensified to empower the parent for the upbringing of their children. Provision of electricity at both rural and urban areas can encourage private enterprises to employ people so that their household responsibilities can be met judiciously. The religious scholars should emphasize preaching on proper parenting and deter their followers against the negligence of their responsibilities

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