

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF CHILD LABOR EXPLOITATION: THE CASE STUDY OF JIMMA TOWN, ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT

This study was initiated with the objective of identifying socio-economic factors of child labor exploitation in Jimma town, Ethiopia for which a cross sectional data were collected from 196 sample child laborers of which 80 (40.82%) are females and 116 (59.18%) are males. After collection primary data through a structured questionnaire, the descriptive statistics (frequency distribution, tables, percentages), and econometric model were used to estimate the determinants of child labor coupled with the ordinary least square (OLS) estimation technique. The result from the OLS estimation revealed that child labor exploitation which is measured by child labor hour found to be significantly associated with age of the child, household size, monthly income of child's parent, sex of the child, and educational level of child's father and the parents of the child under debt. The study recommends that apart from effective law enforcement and creating awareness in the community about the horrible impact of child labor exploitation on their physical and mental wellbeing, the long lasting solution to curb the problem of child labor and the human capital accumulation is yet to come by overcoming poverty level.

KEYWORDS: Child labor, Exploitation, Income, OLS, Poverty.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The development of human resources is basic to the human capital building. Children of the society constitute the most vital base of human resource endowment. They are the most valuable future citizens of the country. However, they face different challenges that potentially harm their social, physical,

psychological, and behavioral developments. Hence, more attention is now being paid to the issues of children in the world (Temesgen, 2015). According to International Labor Organization (2010) cited in Bisrat (2014) child is a father of the man. It is the small kid that will control the whole nation in the near future. Children are the softest souls, they are flowers.

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The future and progress of any country depends on an educated youth and if a child is not properly socialized then he or she will not be able to grow as confident and literate citizen.

Child labor is the participation of child in any exploitive and full time work to sustain oneself or add to family income. However, all work done by children is not child labor, rather when the work interferes with moral, physical, mental, educational, spiritual and social development of a child (Musandrire, 2010).

The most extreme forms of child labor exploitation involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illness for themselves on the street of large cities often at a very early age. Whether or not particular forms of "work" can be called "child labor exploitation" depends on the children's age, the type and hours of work performed, the condition under which it is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries. Child labor perpetuates poverty by depriving children of education and subsequently renders these children without the skills needed to secure the future of their countries (ILO, 2013).

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), 168 million children worldwide are engaged in child labor as of 2013. Of these 168 million children, 85 million are engaged in what the ILO deems "hazardous work." The Sub-Saharan African region has the second highest number of child laborers in the world; about 59 million in 2012. Children aged 5 to 17, or 21.4 percent, are involved in child labor while 10.4 percent are engaged in hazardous work. Only one out of five children involved in child labor is paid for his or her work. The majority of children in child labor perform unpaid family work. Ethiopia is the one among the 10 listed countries listed as worst countries for child labor in 2012. About 60

percent of children in Ethiopia are engaged in some form of child labor. Many of these children work in the mining industry; an industry that poses some of the biggest dangers for child laborers. Many parents in impoverished countries push their children to work out of necessity. Unable to sustain their families on their own income, the parents feel that they have no choice but to push their children into child labor (Matt, 2014).

Child labor is severe in Ethiopia; where child below the working age are exploited for the sake of earning minimum wage for their long hour working (Beliyou, 2003). Child labor means forgone human capital and off course much of the recent concern over child labor stems from the beliefs that it has a detrimental effects on human capital formation. This in turn will have a long term impact on economic growth and development. Therefore, detail analysis of the problem needs further investigation.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Child labor exploitation in developing countries continues to be a controversial issue, which is often debated at international forums (Mahendra, 2013). The United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals lists the elimination of child labor as an important component of sustainable development by 2025. Child labor has the potential to undermine economic growth through its impact on child development, wages, and technology adoption (Edmonds, 2015).

The most recent global estimates suggest some 120 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are involved in child labor, with boys and girls in this age group almost equally affected. Lacking adequate education and skills, as adults' former child laborers are more likely to end up in poorly paid, insecure work or to be

unemployed. In turn there is a high probability that their own children will end up in child labor (ILO, 2015).

Previous studies by Udry (2003), Priyambada (et al., 2005), Sakurai (2006) show that Child labor is rooted in poverty and its relation to education is often considered two sides of the same coin. Poverty and the need of poor families for income are the most important factors that push children to engage in working activities (Gebremedhin, 2013).

To the best of our knowledge, only some researchers have been conducted their researches at national level and studies at local context are scanty. Gebremedhin (2013) and Temesgen (2015) conducted their research on the effect of child labor on education at Mekelle and Jimma towns respectively. Both of them employed cross sectional data which was analyzed by descriptive statistics. But in this study more weight is given to econometric analysis. Besides, the effect of child's biological relationships with the household head and parent's debt were included in our analysis as explanatory variables that no one dealt with before.

Although some studies try to explain about child labor exploitation, they did not show the detailed determinant factors of child labor exploitation broadly at the local context. Therefore, this research is different in that it is an initial study that assesses the determinants of child labor exploitation in Jimma town with age group 5-17 and the main purpose of this study is to identify the socio economic factors that determine child labor hour.

Thus, the immediate outcome of this study will provide pertinent result and policy implication for the policy makers. Besides, we believe that the study will add vital outcome to the existing stock of knowledge and provoke or initiate for further study in the area as it paved the way

about the very important determinants of child labor using cross sectional data analysis.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In view of the above discussion, three questions are posed which the study seeks to address:

- What is the extent of child labor exploitation in the study area?
- What are the factors affecting child labor exploitation?
- What are the possible ways out to mitigate the child labor exploitation?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of the study is to examine the determinants of child labor exploitation in Jimma town, Ethiopia. More specifically, the study has the following specific objectives:-

- To analyze the extent of child labor exploitation in the study area.
- To identify factors affecting child labor exploitation
- To come up with possible and appropriate policy measures that could be used to stop the move against exploitative child labor activities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

THEORIES OF CHILD LABOR EXPLOITATION

Despite there exist a growing empirical literature on child labor, but finding the theories on the issue is not as such simple as long as writings on the area are very little. After reviewing few papers on the area, we put some of the theory of child labor which will be used as base for our study.

HUMAN CAPITAL THEORY

The Human Capital Theory is based the on neo-classical theory of endogenous growth. It assumes that people are productive resource.

Hence higher education will lead to higher productivity. Basic proposition behind this theory is that parents make trade-off when allocating their children's time, especially for education and labor (Schultz, 1961).

RISK THEORY

Poor household faces shocks and risks such as unemployment, natural disasters effecting income like draught and flood, war etc. The income shocks could be severe among the household who do not have enough reserve resources to meet such shocks. These household are more likely to supply child labor if they remain unable to borrow to smooth their present consumption need. Literature often points out that in extreme cases household could sell the future hours of their child work to overcome the present income shocks. (Duryea, 1988) concluded that the parent's unemployment reduces the probability of grade advancement among the children. (Jacoby et al, 1997) working on the data of rural India provide evidence that parents withdraw children from school during unexpected decline in crop income.

DETERMINANTS OF CHILD LABOR IN THE EMPIRICAL LITERATURE

Study of child labor has been subject of research by many researchers in the past. They have concluded several factors affecting child labor in different regions of the world based upon analysis of cross sectional and panel data. The findings from some of recent studies, so far, reviewed are presented hereunder.

According to (Kelemu et al., 2016) the major determinants of child labor exploitation are rooted in the family, community and the society at large and poverty and migration accounted mostly to put pressure on children to engage in laborious works. More specifically, there are other determinants which are death

and instability of one's parent and family, low level of education, lack of awareness on the rights of children, divorce, land scarcity and others.

A study by Kausar (2010) on the impact of child labor on Pakistan's economy applying OLS technique examined the negative relationship between child labor and literacy rate for both 10- 14 years age children and 15 years and above, while per capita income did not show any significant result. The study also proved that the negative relationship between household size and child labor.

Ray (2001) examined simultaneous analysis of child labor and child schooling in Nepal and Pakistan for the time period 1981-1990. He used child labor hours as dependent and educated male member, educated female member, maximum wage earned by male and female member as independent variables. According to his findings the joint estimation of child labor hours and child schooling experience exertions is the significant rate that child's current school attendance plays in sharply diminishing child labor hours. Rising education level of the adults members in the household and increased public awareness have a highly insignificant positive impact on child schooling and subsequently can play important part in reducing the child's long hours of working. (Latif et al. 2016) concludes that less education, need for extra money and lack for poor monitoring by government are important factors and reasons of child labor in Pakistan.

A Study on child labor in three major towns of southern Ethiopia (Hawassa, Arba Minch and Wolayita Sodo) by Solomon (et. al, 2011) by surveying a total of 323 child laborers (whose age is between 5-18) concludes about 42.0% of children were below the age of 14 years and were engaged in labor work. The reasons for child labor included poverty (60.7%), loss of parents (17.3%), disagreement with parents

(8.4%), parental separation (6.5%), shortage of food (5.3%) and displacement due to war (1.5%). Almost all of the respondents' parents had a low level rank occupation with 64.0% having a monthly income of less than 50 birr and 79.0% of the respondents reported that they were from poor families. Among the respondents, 51.1% were domestic child laborers, 22.6% were street child laborers and 18.3% were working in private organizations. Two-thirds of the child laborers were working for more than 10 hours a day and 82.0% of them had a daily income of less than five birr. About half of them stayed in the job for more than two years and most of them did not visit their parents or relatives for long periods of time. 84 % of them reported previously encountering with one or more health problems. Malaria-like illnesses and diarrheal diseases were the major health problems reported. About 19.0% of them were sexually active, yet 22.6% of them have never heard about HIV/AIDS. About three-quarters of them did not attend any kind of health education program. The majority (77.4%) of them had never heard of the Conventions on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

According to (Mahendra, 2013) household size, household income and gender of children significantly affect child labor supply. According to ILO (2002); Mazhar, (2008); Rena, et al. (2009); Moyi (2010), Brown et al. (2002) cited a number of factors are responsible for the high incidence of child labor in developing countries, they considered child labor as a consequence of poverty-related factors including economic stagnation, illiteracy, powerlessness, war, famine, orphan-hood, rapid spread of HIV/AIDS and deficient economic and educational policies for child labor. It is argued that households that do not have enough resources to sustain the family, have no a choice but forced their children to work as laborers to make ends meet. In such cases, size of the

household is important in determining children's labor activities and educational opportunities. High fertility increases the chances that children from large families have to do work to support household income. The more years of school both mothers and fathers have, the more likely they are to devote their children's time exclusively to school, even controlling for household income (Gebremedhin, 2013).

To sum up, all studies discussed above did not include the variables like, children's parents who take debit and biological relationship of the child with the household head as determinants of child labor exploitations. So this study tries to include those variables which are not studied before.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A cross-sectional study design had been used in order to analyze the extent and the various socio-economic factors of child labor exploitation in Jimma town. The collected data was analyzed by using both the qualitative and quantitative (econometrics) methods with the help of analysis software (STATA 13).

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

Jimma Town is among the largest urban areas of Oromia regional state with denser human population and located in south west direction 356 Km far from Addis Ababa. According to the statistical report Jimma town (2009) had a total population of about 194,139, residing in 17 small administrative clusters-kebeles. The town constitutes household population of 40,446. The town is mainly serves as Zone Administration, trade, tourism and transport center. The major investment opportunities in the town are commercial buildings, real state, and agriculture (in the surrounding areas). Together with this, the town is highly known by the commercial center for coffee production in

the region (CSA, 2016). In Jimma town participation of children in different sectors of the economy is severe as compared to other towns of the country and the target population of the study was child laborers found in Jimma town.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE AND SAMPLE SIZE

According to Jimma town women and child affair office (2016), there were 40,700 child laborers aged 5-17. In the town there are 17 kebeles and it is not possible for conducting a survey by covering all kebeles, so taking a sample is an appropriate way. To make the sample representative of the total population, a multi-stage sampling was used. Firstly, three kebeles were selected using purposive sampling and the selection is done depending on the availability of market place where children’s are participating in labor activities either to help their parents or guardians or to earn income for their livelihood. The number of population, number of child laborers and the economic condition (those who are poor, medium and relatively speaking children’s participating in labor activities who come from rich families) were included.

The number of child laborers whose age is between 5-17 and at the same time who combine work with school hours for the three kebeles namely Bauche Booree, Hirmaataa Markaattoo and Hirmaataa Mantiinaa were 2530, 780 and 1385 respectively. The total number of child laborers in the surveyed kebeles was added to 4695.

For sample size determination we used the following formula following (Yamane, 1967).

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where; n = sample size

N = Number of child laborers in the study area

e = is the desired level of precision (e = 7% or 0.07)

$$n = \frac{4,695}{1 + 4,695(0.0049)} = 196$$

After determining the total number of sample respondents in the study area, the next step involved was to apply proportional stratified random sampling by dividing the given population into homogeneous subgroups and then determining sample respondents in each of the three selected kebeles by using simple random sampling techniques. Then at this stage, children whose age was between 5 and 17 and who were engaged in economic or non-economic activities had been selected randomly proportional to their population size. The formula is as follow;

$$ni = \frac{Ni}{N} * n$$

Where, ni = Sample size of ith kebele, Ni = Total child laborers of ith kebele, and N = Total number of child laborers in the selected kebele and n = Total sample size.

For Bauche Booree kebele, 2530/ 4695* 196=106

For Hirmaataa Markaattoo kebele, 780/ 4695* 196=32

For Hirmaataa Mantiinaa kebele, 1385/ 4695* 191=58

Therefore, the total respondent of the three kebeles were the sum of the above sample that was 106+32+58=196.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The study was mainly conducted using primary data, which was collected by using structured questionnaire from child laborers themselves. Primarily the questions were prepared in English language and converted to local languages where everybody can easily

understand about the ideas included in the questionnaire. To collect data from respondents a trained data collectors, who could speak the both languages (English and Amharic) were used in the data collection process and conducted a face to face interview with the sampled respondents.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

ECONOMETRIC MODEL SPECIFICATION

Previous studies on determinants of child labor in India and Pakistan by Kurtikova (2009) and Ray (2001) analyzed the determinants using Ordinary Least Square (OLS) estimation technique. This is because; child labor is measured by child labor hours per week which is a continuous variable. So this study also used

OLS estimation technique and the STATA as application software package. Therefore, the model for child labor hours can be given as follows:

$$\text{Child labor hours (twhij)} = + \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

$$\beta_1 \text{sexij} + \beta_2 \text{ageij} + \beta_3 \text{hhsij} + \beta_4 \text{mincij} + \beta_5 \text{maeduij} + \beta_6 \text{faeduij} + \beta_7 \text{mshhij} + \beta_8 \text{brchhhij} + \beta_9 \text{debtij} + \beta_{10} \text{eshhij} + \beta_{11} \text{agehhij} + \beta_{12} \text{sexhhij} + \mu_{ij}$$

Where, *i* is individuals (child laborers) and *j* represents the kebele of each child laborers.

β_0 is constant (intercept) and $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5, \beta_6, \beta_7, \beta_8, \beta_9, \beta_{10}, \beta_{11}$ and β_{12} are coefficients and μ_{ij} is stochastic variable (error term)

Table 1. Description of Variables used in the Model

Variab	Description
Twh	Total working hours of child laborers per week
Hhs	Household size
Age	Age of the child
Agehh	Age of the household head
Minc	Monthly income of the child’s parent
Sex	1 if the child is male; 0 otherwise
Sexhd	1 if the household head is female; 0 otherwise
Maedu	a categorical dummy for the level of education attained by child mother's (1 if illiterate; 2 if primary school completed; 3 if secondary school completed; 4 if above secondary school)
Faedu	a categorical dummy for the level of education attained by child father's (1 if illiterate; 2 if primary school completed; 3 if secondary school completed; 4 if above secondary school)
Brchh	1 if the child is not biologically related with the head of the household; 0 otherwise
Mshh	a categorical dummy for marital status of the household head (1 if single; 2 if married; 3 if divorced; 4 if widowed)
Eshh	1 if the household head is employed; otherwise 0
Debt	1 if the parents of the child take debt; otherwise 0

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

A Sample of 196 child laborers who work in various sectors was selected randomly for this study. Out of the total respondents 80 (40.82%) are females and 116 (59.18%) are males. The

data shows 161 (82%) of them are working for wage while 35 (18%) are working without having a paid wage as they are working for helping their parents in work place.

In the survey, information on education level of parents was collected with the purpose to understand the impact of parental educational

level of the child labor in influencing children to take up the labor work participation. Table 2 presents the educational status of the parents of the child workers. Overall, about 70 (35.71%) of the fathers of child workers and 74 (37.76%) of the mothers of the child workers were found to be illiterate. Among the illiterate parents, mothers registered slightly higher illiteracy level than fathers. As indicated in Table 2 about 70 (35.71%) of the fathers and 90 (45.92) of the mothers were primary school completed. 35

(17.8%) of the fathers, 26 (13.27) of the mothers and 21 (10.71%) of the fathers, 6 (3.06%) of the mothers are secondary school completed and above secondary school respectively. This indicates that the majority of the child workers that participated in the survey come from illiterate families and families with poor educational background and the number of working children declines with the increase in the educational level of the parents.

Table 2. Parental Educational Level

Variable	Educational level	Frequency	Percentage
Mothers' Education level of the Child Labors	Illiterate	74	37.76
	Primary school completed	90	45.92
	Secondary school completed	26	13.27
	Above secondary school	6	3.06
	Total	196	100
Fathers' Education Level of the Child Labors	Illiterate	70	35.71
	Primary school completed	70	35.71
	Secondary school completed	35	17.86
	Above secondary school	21	10.71
	Total	196	100

Source: Authors' Survey (2017)

Table 3. Nature of Works Children Participation

The type of work that children's engaged	Respondents			
	Male	Female	Total respondents	Percentage
Wood work	17	1	18	9.18
Garage	16	2	18	9.18
Taxi conductor	5	0	5	2.55
Shoe Polisher	26	0	26	13.27
Café and restaurant	3	0	3	1.53
Household chores	16	18	34	17.35
Street vendors	8	31	39	19.9
Shop keepers	9	9	18	9.18
Donkey Cart drivers	5	0	5	2.55
Lottery seller	4	3	7	3.57
Others	10	13	23	11.73
Total	119	77	196	100

Source: Authors' Survey (2017)

Table 3 contains information about the nature of work that children participate in the study area. As represented by the Table 3 above 39

(19.9%) of the respondents' were working as a street vendors followed by working in household chores 34 (17.35%) and as shoe

polisher 26 (13.27%). Children's working in wood work, garage and shop keepers have the same percentage share that is 18 of them are working in each working category taking 9.18% and the same is true for those working in taxi conducting and in donkey cart driver category which accounts 5 (2.55%). The remaining are lottery seller and those working in café and restaurant accounts 7 (3.57%) and 3 (1.53%) respectively. From this information we can deduce that most of the participants in labor activities are male as compared to female. When we see their participation in each work category most of males are working as a shoe shine and wood work, while most of females are working as a street vendors and household chores respectively.

ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS

The estimation of child labor hour equation has been done by using OLS estimation technique.

DETERMINANTS OF CHILD LABOR EXPLOITATION

As explained previously that child labor is measured by child labor hour per week and the expected factors that determine child labor hour were sex of the child, age of the child, household size, monthly income of child's parent, educational level of child's mother and father, marital status of the household head, child's biological relationship with the head of the household, child's parent who takes debit, employment status of the household head, age of the household head and sex of the household head.

OLS ESTIMATION RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Prior to running OLS estimation, the model is checked for the existence of data problems mainly multicollinearity, heteroskedasticity, normality and omitted variable bias. After doing

this procedure the final output or result is presented as follows,

LINEAR REGRESSION

Number of obs =196 R-squared = 0.3371

F (19, 176) = 4.71 Adj R-squared =0.2655

Pro >F = 0.0000 Root MSE = 12.78

As displayed in the above Table 4 the variables out of twelve found to be significant to determine child labor hour. Sex of the child and monthly income of child's parent are significant at 5%, while age of the child and household size found to be significant at 1% level of significance. As the coefficient for sex of the child shows female children's are more participant in labor activities than male child do and the finding contradicts with the finding of Mahendra (2013). For parental income, the coefficient is negative which shows the existence of negative relationship between child labor and parental income. Whenever the income of child's parent increases there is a reduction of child participation in labor activities. There is a negative relationship between parental income and child labor participation as found by Solomon (et al. 2011).

Household size and age of the child affects child labor hour positively and significant at 1% level. Child characteristics of age statistically affect the number of hours worked by children and it has positive sign. It means older children work for more hours than younger children. Household size found to have positive and significant effect on child labor hour. When household size increases parents are unable to finance all the expenditure for their livelihood, so they push their children to work at the cost of schooling hours. Educational level of child's father is significant at 5% and has negative impact on child labor hour. In addition to the variable explained above the variables that child's parent who take debt is significant at 5%

and it determines child labor hour positively. This has an indication that parents who take debt sent their children to work more than parents who do not take debt.

Table 4.Result of Ordinary Least Square (OLS) Method

Dependent variable	Coefficients	Standard error	t	p> t
(Total working hour per week)				
Dummy for female child	3.990812**	1.993025	2.00	0.047
Age of the child	1.10534*	0.4098644	2.70	0.008
Household size	1.483161*	0.4271158	3.47	0.001
Income	-.0007814**	0.0003899	-2.00	0.047
Mother's education (reference = above secondary school)	-	-	-	-
Illiterate	1.403785	5.942311	0.24	0.814
Primary school completed	-0.1667073	5.752828	-0.03	0.977
Secondary school completed	-0.2851573	6.06059	-0.05	0.963
Father's education (reference = above secondary school)	-	-	-	-
Illiterate	-7.277006**	3.529195	-2.06	0.041
Primary school completed	-8.223797*	3.392914	-2.42	0.016
secondary school completed	-1.471877	3.880505	-0.38	0.705
Marital status of the household head (reference = married)	-	-	-	-
Single household head	3.248912	3.741093	0.87	0.386
Divorced household head	2.893699	2.386803	1.21	0.227
Widowed household head	1.070333	3.941833	0.27	0.786
Dummy for child who is biologically related with the head	-3.106842	2.154626	-1.44	0.151
Dummy for child's parent who have debit	7.825869**	3.801668	2.06	0.041
Dummy for unemployed household head	1.797819	4.271627	0.42	0.674
Age of the household head	0.0443563	0.0881919	0.50	0.616
Dummy for female household head	2.407952	2.212804	1.09	0.278
_cons	13.77422	9.193865	1.50	0.136

Source: Authors' Estimations (2017)

(*) and (**) shows the significant level of the variables at 1% and 5% respectively.

The sign of household size and income of the parents of the child observed above coincides with the finding of Mahendra (2013). Kausar (2010) also found the positive effect of household size on child labor hour per week like the result received in this study. The Childs who is biologically related with the head of the

household has a negative impact on child labor hour per week. Although marital status of the household head is not significant at 1%, 5% and 10% level. The sign for the dummy variable for single, divorced and widowed household head is positive and this mean that these variables have a positive impact on child labor hour.

CONCLUSIONS

Childhood is the most attractive stage of human being where child is free from any work or worry. But, in reality this becomes history and children found in both developed and developing countries prone to injurious (exploitative) work which denied their opportunity of physical and mental growth. It is the responsibility of parents to provide everything their children's need to meet their education, but in cases where they are unable financially and they allow or even send their children to work for earning money deliberately.

Theoretical review reveals that, most of children in developing countries throughout the world are engaged in domestic work, within and outside their houses. Likewise, in South Western Ethiopia, specifically in our case study Jimma town, children mostly participate in street vender, shoe polishing, lottery selling, donkey cart driving, shop keeping, household chores, wood work, garage work, café and restaurant and taxi conducting. Child laborers working as a street vendors take the first rank followed by working as household chores. Our finding reveals that, child labor hour is strongly influenced by sex of the child, age of children, house hold size, monthly income of parents, educational level of the child's parents and the level of debt.

The findings of the study identified major socio-economic factors affecting child labor exploitation in Jimma town. Based on the findings, the following suggestions are forwarded to the poor parents and the administrative authorities. *Firstly*, Parent should be aware of the negative effect of child labor exploitation on their physical and mental wellbeing. *Secondly*, Parent's income level is one of the determinants of child labor, therefore it is better for the government to give subsidies and credit facility for the poor, and to

expand (strengthen) poverty reduction program in order to achieve its goal by providing quality education for all. *Thirdly*, child labor exploitation which is the obstacle for development should be reduced by population control program. This is because; household size has a significant positive impact on child labor hour and indirect but negative impact on child schooling and health status. It is better for the government to strongly put a limit on the number of children birth within a household. *Finally*, Children's are more exposed to child labor with the increase in age. So, the government should not focus only at a very early age for implementing child labor laws but also, until they fully enjoy their childhood stage.

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