

Behavioural Problems of Juvenile Street Hawkers In Uyo Metropolis, Nigeria

Nsisong A. Udoh

Department of Educational Foundations, Guidance and Counselling
Faculty of Education, University of Uyo
P.M.B 1017, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
E-mail: nsisong99@yahoo.com

Eme U. Joseph

Department of Educational Foundations, Guidance and Counselling
Faculty of Education, University of Uyo
P.M.B 1017, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
E-mail: emeujoseph@yahoo.com

Received: November 27, 2011

Accepted: December 7, 2011

Published: February 1, 2012

doi:10.5430/wje.v2n1p137

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5430/wje.v2n1p137>

Abstract

The study sought the opinions of Faculty of Education Students of University of Uyo on the behavioural problems of juvenile street hawkers in Uyo metropolis. Five research hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. This cross-sectional survey employed multi-stage random sampling technique in selecting 200 regular undergraduate students in the Education Faculty of the University of Uyo for the study. The Juvenile Street Hawkers Opiniariare (JUVSHO) developed by the researchers was used in data collection. The hypotheses were tested using chi square statistic at $p \leq .05$ level of significance and appropriate degrees of freedom. Results indicate that juvenile street hawkers develop maladjusted patterns of behaviour, which in turn impair their academic, moral, social, physical, and psychological growth and development thus affecting their future negatively. Based on these findings, it was recommended that government should provide free basic education, improve workers remuneration, provide academic grants and aids to economically disadvantaged parents, and create jobs for unemployed parents, inter alia, in order to keep children from hawking under the guise of subsisting family income at the expense of their total development. Also, the implications of these findings for counselling psychologists in the school system were given.

Keywords: Street hawking, Behaviour problems, Juvenile delinquency, Child development, Education, Counselling

1. Introduction

Historically, hawking appears to be part of Nigerian culture and understandably so. Nigeria being among the poorest economies in the world—with the accompanying effects of unemployment, poor infrastructural facilities, and lack of human empowerment—has seen most of her populace living in abject poverty. Therefore, because of the low socio-economic status of most families in Nigeria and the high rate of poverty, most parents cannot help but push their wards into the streets where they spend long hours, at the mercy of environmental elements, selling “pure water” (sachet water), fruits, confectioneries, beverages and so on; so that the proceeds may contribute to family upkeep. This situation is alarming because street hawking is a form of child labour and abuse which is on the increase in Uyo metropolis. Street hawking is considered a form of child abuse because it endangers the health (physical, spiritual, psychological, and social) and safety of the child; interferes with his/her education, and deprives him/her the right to normal and happy childhood. In the words of Ebigo (2003), “The traditional farming and trading Nigerian society, impacted by economic and political misery, cultural conflict, unemployment, illiteracy, and urban drift, is leading to exploited, uneducated, abused, malnourished children”.

Nevertheless, as Cruzador (1998) points out, “There is nothing wrong with work ... what is wrong is the way the children are exploited, beaten and sexually abused”; this basic assumption holds insofar as the Nigeria economic

situation is concerned. Taken differently, juvenile work is a good form of industry training given to children and should not be completely eradicated. What is required to allay the threat of child labour and abuse is a more nuanced view of children's contribution to family income and livelihood. It is thus hoped that by thus exposing the negative effects of street hawking on children, those concerned will be able to draw the line between what amounts to child work training and child labour and abuse.

1.1 Statement Of The Problem

Most children start hawking at a very tender age, when they are still in their formative years. On the other hand, general standards of morality and social norms that govern acceptable patterns of behaviour are on the decline. When children are, by street hawking, exposed to the corrupting influences of the debased society without commensurate or even more positive influence from the family circle, they may develop patterns of speech and behaviour that may deviate considerably from socially desirable and acceptable standards. These hawkers may become trained to indulge in bad behaviours which may thwart their progress in life. Thus, this study seeks to discover behavioural effects of street hawking on the hawkers in Uyo Metropolis, Nigeria.

1.2 Research Hypotheses

In order to provide a guide for this study, the following hypotheses were formulated:

- 1) Street hawking does not significantly contribute to truancy in schools
- 2) Street hawking does not significantly create room for moral laxity among the hawkers in Uyo metropolis
- 3) The problem of street hawking may not significantly affect the future of the hawkers in Uyo metropolis
- 4) Street hawking does not significantly depend on the poor parental (economic) background of the hawkers in Uyo metropolis
- 5) Street hawking does not necessarily lead to stealing by the street hawkers

2. Literature Review

Early deprivation of children's right to normal life could lead to behavioural problems. Thus, the behavioural manifestations of problems associated with street hawking include problems of social maladjustment, moral defect, emotional reaction and insecurity. Dantiye and Haruna (2004) observed that street hawking is highly detrimental to children's physical, mental, psychological, and social development. Also, in a study conducted by Aderinto and Okunola (1998), children submitted that they were pushed into street hawking by maintenance needs. Onibokun (2000) also found that children are forced into street hawking by the need to contribute to family income, lack of relevant education that can guarantee employment after training and demands of traditions. Other factors identified as sustaining street hawking in some parts of Nigeria by Dantiye and Haruna (2004) include hawking as a means by which young girls attract suitors and a means for raising money for buying items in preparation for marriage for the young hawkers. Also, ILO (1998) submitted that 40% of street children are employed as sex workers, drug peddlers, car washers and bus conductors for economic ends.

Juvenile street hawking has a negative effect on the level of education attained, school attendance, school grades, literacy, and overall human capital formation (Murphy, Jellinek, Quinn, Smith, Poitras, & Goshko, 1991). It is also found to result in low school enrolment with developmental and performance implications (Basu & Van, 1998). In another study conducted in Asia, child labour was also found to negatively affect the educational outcomes of children (Charles & Charles, 2004). In Africa, and particularly in rural Nigeria, it has been observed that child labourers generally have lower school attendance (Robson, 2004).

The physical and health consequences of children participating in the sales and service sector of the economy have been identified in Latin America, Asia and Africa to include various diseases such as respiratory problems, injuries, rape and molestation, malnourishment, extortion of income, and participation in harmful or delinquent activities, inadequate sleep due to fatigue and long hours on the job, and confinement in juvenile homes (Finkelman, 1995; Ross, 1996).

Children engaged in trading encounter problems related to their psychological well-being too. Stigmatization by the press and public, feelings of disheartenment, stress and irritability, personality disorders, anti-social behaviour, alienation, and isolation from their family have all been identified (Amin, 1994). Still on the effects of child labour on the mental health of the child, Baland and Robinson (2000) found that these children suffer verbal abuse, low self esteem, and a loss of imagination and future direction in life. It is also a known fact that child labourers tend to keep bad company and are negatively pressured by peers to engage in delinquent behaviour (Hughes, 2009). One common thread emerging from the synthesis of literature is that child labour had detrimental effects for children's health, social and educational well-being.

Ekpenyong and Sibiri (2011) also found that the prevalence of street hawking is proliferating and must be addressed as a national emergency situation. Furthermore, 98% of their sample submitted that a compromised socio-economic situation is the bane of street hawking in the study region and that street trading is contemporaneous with a number of dangers, including kidnapping, accidents and the influence of negative or criminal peer groups. The study also revealed that street trading has a negative impact on society as it leads to underdevelopment rather than development of the nation in the long run (ibid).

Problems associated with street hawking have further been identified by Aderinto and Okunola (1998) to include high potential for accidents, truancy, and exposure to hazards of weather and fatigue. Additionally, Anabogu (2000) found feelings of inferiority, exhaustion, emotional distress, unhappiness and personality disorders to be associated with street hawking. In another study, Dunapo (2002) found that hawkers are exposed to dangers of being kidnapped, raped, and/or being recruited to hawk drugs by drug barons. He also discovered that young street hawkers are prone to early unwanted pregnancy and contracting of deadly sexually transmitted infections (ibid). Both Ewuruigwe (1986) and Akpusugh (1986) have shown in their separate studies that street hawking has serious effects on the social development of children. Their findings could be consolidated by the fact that street hawkers come to develop attitudes that deviate from normal expectations.

In an intensive study of 100 female hawkers aged 8 to 15 by Ebigbo and Abaga (1990), it was discovered that 50% of them had sexual intercourse during hawking, which is a grave situation in view of their vulnerability to fatal sexually transmitted infections. Additional problems found to be associated with street hawking include restlessness, noise making, disobedience, loitering, untidiness, lying and conducts problems (Ugudulunwa, Anakwe, & Mustapha, 2004). In another study, Nte (2005) found that while some of these street hawkers sell for parents to augment their lean wages, others sell for employers for a 'morsel of bread', others sell for relations in the form of disguised child labour and still others sell to eke out a living. Hidden from the "casual observer" is the army of child prostitutes who combine hawking and petty prostitution. They are usually aged 11 – 14 years and at times encouraged by their parents, guardians and employers. This category makes up the most hazardous Street Children because of the HIV/AIDS scourge and unwanted pregnancies/teenage motherhood (Nte, ibid).

The structure and function of families plays a central role in shaping the behaviour and skills of children. Children, who form sub-components of the family, must be raised to be responsible members of society with appropriate values, beliefs and training. The ability of the family to function effectively is a factor in child development. Child labour is a sign of family dislocation and disorganization (Crosson, 2008). As a result of child labour, the welfare of the children is adversely affected, as they are exposed to other social ills and dangers. They are forced to live in the adult world away from their families.

3. Methodology

3.1 Sample

The population of the study consisted of all the regular undergraduate students at all levels in the Faculty of Education University of Uyo, which was 1680 in number at the time of this study. A total of 200 were sampled, using the multi-stage random sampling technique, from the seven Departments in the Faculty of Education.

3.2 Instrument

The instrument used for this study was the *Juvenile Street Hawkers Opiniariare* (JUVSHO) developed by the researchers. The instrument comprised two sections. The first, *SECTION A*, had 5 items which sought demographic information from the respondents while the second, *SECTION B*, had 30 items that sought relevant research information based on the hypotheses that were formulated to guide the study. The items on the instrument were carefully constructed in the light of professional literature on street hawking and behaviour problems of children based on the purpose of the study so as to ensure content validity and stability of the instrument. The items were further subjected to meticulous vetting and review by measurement experts and counselling psychologists to ascertain the suitability of the items on the instrument. Their professional recommendations were well integrated in the final copy. Finally, the instrument yielded a test-retest reliability coefficient of 0.75—an indication of reasonable consistency.

3.3 Design and Statistics

This cross-sectional survey adopted the ex-post-facto design because in the course of conducting this research, the researchers had no control over the variables under investigation. The hypotheses were tested using the chi square statistics at $p \leq .05$ level of significance and corresponding degrees of freedom.

4. Result Presentation

The results from data analyses will be presented and discussed in the light of the hypotheses that were formulated to guide the study.

4.1 Hypotheses One

Hypothesis one which proposed that *street hawking does not significantly contribute to truancy in school*, was tested at $p \leq .05$ level of significance and 12 degrees of freedom (See Table 1). The result showed that, the calculated value of X^2 (148.28) was greater than the critical value of X^2 (21.03), thus the hypotheses was rejected whereas its alternative was upheld, implying that, street hawking does significantly contribute to truancy among the hawkers in Uyo metropolis.

<Table 1 about here>

4.2 Hypotheses Two

Hypotheses two stated that *street hawking does not significantly create room for moral laxity among the hawkers in Uyo metropolis*. Hypotheses two was tested at $p \leq .05$ level of significance with 30 degrees of freedom (See Table 2). The result of the test showed that, the calculated value of X^2 (181.18) was greater than the calculated value of X^2 (43.77). Thus, Hypotheses two was rejected and its alternative was upheld. This indicates that street hawking creates room for moral laxity for street hawkers in Uyo metropolis.

<Table 2 about here>

4.3 Hypotheses Three

Hypotheses three proposed that *the problems of street hawking may not significantly affect the future of the hawkers in Uyo metropolis*. A test of this supposition at $p \leq .05$ level of significance and 15 degrees of freedom yielded 235.80 as the calculated value of X^2 and 25 as the critical value of X^2 (See Table 3). Since the calculated value of X^2 was greater than the critical value of X^2 at $p \leq .05$ level of significance, Hypotheses three, was rejected, implying that the behaviour problems that result from street hawking may significantly affect the future of the hawkers in Uyo metropolis.

<Table 3 about here>

4.4 Hypothesis Four

Hypothesis four predicted that *street hawking does not significantly depend on the poor parental background of the hawkers in Uyo metropolis*. This supposition was tested at $p \leq .05$ level of significance with 9 degrees of freedom, and the result yielded 20.75 as the calculated value of X^2 and 16.92 as the critical value of X^2 (See Table 4). Since the calculated value of X^2 was greater than the critical value of X^2 , Hypothesis four was rejected. This result shows that poverty is a primary cause of street hawking.

<Table 4 about here>

4.5 Hypothesis Five

Hypothesis five proposed that *street hawking does not necessary lead to stealing by the hawkers*. This Hypothesis was tested at $p \leq .05$ level of significance with 9 degrees of freedom and yielded 55.27 as the calculated value of X^2 and 16.92 as the critical value of X^2 (See Table 5). Based on this outcome, the hypothesis was rejected and the alternative was upheld. This means that street hawking does predispose the hawkers to stealing.

<Table 5 about here>

5. Discussion of Findings

From the test result of hypothesis one, it can be said that street hawking contributes significantly to truancy among the hawkers in schools, besides other anti-school activism. This finding agrees with the submission of Aderinto and Okunola (1998) who found in their study that street hawkers have high potential for truancy, among other behaviour problems. The findings of Ugudulunwa, et al (2004) that street hawkers are often involved in loitering, leaving school without permission, and staying out of classes further corroborates the result of this research. It could thus be submitted that street hawking is detrimental to the educational development of the hawkers in Uyo metropolis (cf. Murphy et al, 1991; Basu & Van, 1998; Charles & Charles; and Robson, 2004).

The result of hypothesis two showed that street hawking does create room for moral laxity among the hawkers in Uyo metropolis. This submission was based on various indicators such as the use of vulgar language, violent behaviour, disregard for others, rebelliousness, involvement in examination malpractices, dishonesty, prostitution by the females, used of mind altering drugs, and involvement in various immoral acts. These findings are in line with those of Dantiye and Haruna (2004) who found in their study that girls involved in street hawking used this means to attract suitors. Also, Anabogu (2000) found that street hawkers develop, among other problems, personality disorders. Furthermore, Akpusugh's (1986) findings that street hawking has serious effects on the social development of the child supports the outcome of hypothesis two of this study which returned that street hawking does create room for moral laxity among the hawkers in Uyo metropolis. Finally, the findings of Ugudulunwa, et al (2004) that drug abuse, sexual immorality, embezzlement, fighting, cheating in examinations, and smoking are some of the behaviour problems of street hawkers add substance to the findings of this research. Based on these, it is clear that juvenile street hawking does not augur well for the moral development of the hawkers in Uyo metropolis (cf. Ebigbo & Abaga, 1990; Hughes, 2009; Nte, 2005).

The result of hypothesis three showed that the problems associated with street hawking may significantly affect the

future of the hawkers in Uyo metropolis (cf. Baland & Robinson, 2000; Ekpenyong & Sibiri, 2011). This submission is in consonance with the findings of Dunapo (2002) who found that hawkers are exposed to dangers of being kidnapped, raped, and recruited to hawk drugs by drug barons; contract deadly infections that are sexually transmitted and early unwanted pregnancy. Again, Ugudulunwa, et al (2004) identified failure in school subjects as a problem which street hawkers have that may affect their future negatively. Furthermore, Dantiye and Haruna (2004) found that street hawking is highly detrimental to children's physical, mental, and social development. The foregone synthesis of literacy coheres and reinforces the outcome of this research concerning juvenile street hawkers in Uyo metropolis. Their findings reinforce the statistical test result of hypothesis three—that the problems of street hawking have a negative effect on the future of the hawkers.

The result of hypothesis four showed that poverty is the main cause of street hawking (cf. Ebigbo, 2003; Nte, 2005). This result is in agreement with the findings of the study conducted by Aderinto and Okunola (1998), where children submitted that they were pushed into street hawking by maintenance needs. Also, Onibokun's (2000) findings that children are forced into street hawking by the need to contribute to family upkeep and lack of relevant education that can guarantee gainful employment after training is further supported by the findings of this research.

The result of the fifth hypothesis revealed that while street hawking does not necessarily lead to stealing by the hawkers, it does however predispose them to stealing. In other words, street hawkers are more likely to be involved in petty theft. This agrees with the findings of Ugudulunwa, et al (2004) who found embezzlement, dishonesty, and stealing to be among the problems of juvenile street hawkers. This result could be consolidated by the fact that juvenile street hawkers come to associate with delinquent peers and more often than not freely cruise along with their negative influences, including the pressure to steal (cf. Crosson, 2008; Hughes, 2009).

6. Counselling Implications

School counsellors should endeavour to combat these problems through the children by keeping an eye on indicators of maladaptive patterns of behaviour in them. When such behavioural deficits are observed, school counsellors should not hesitate to use their initiative and intervene.

Given every opportunity, counsellors should encourage parents to effectively play their roles in the family and desist from shifting such responsibilities as fending for the family to their children. Nature demands that parents provide for their children. While it is, by circumstance of diseconomies, not wrong for children to assist to the extent possible, parents should be helped to appreciate what harm they do to their wards by forcing them to assume those roles at the expense of their total development.

Counsellors should utilize every opportunity to dissuade guardians, especially, from forcing their wards into street hawking even when doing so is not necessary.

Counsellors and all stakeholders in child education, child care and welfare, and those who are interested in saving the younger generation should encourage the government to make provisions such as incentives and grants (such as scholarship awards) to support children from poor parental backgrounds so that these may enjoy a happy childhood, uninterrupted basic education, and good health.

7. Recommendations

The adverse effects of long hours of street hawking on the physical, mental, and social growth and development of children could be minimized if the behaviour problems are identified early and managed properly. Therefore, based on the findings of this study, the following are recommended:

- 1) Since poverty appears to be the primary cause of street hawking, the government at all levels should step-up efforts to improve the economy, as a matter of urgency. This they can do by stemming the tide of unemployment, improving the remuneration of workers, improving infrastructure, creating job opportunities, and empowering the masses in various conceivable ways. This would go a long way to raise the socio-economic condition of most families thus reducing the poverty rate in the country.
- 2) The government at all levels should not only provide free basic education but also take practical steps to ensure that the education they give is truly and completely free, qualitative, and necessarily compulsory. Legislating and effecting punitive measures on education stakeholders that default will enhance success in this direction.
- 3) School administrators should step-up efforts to curb every form of truancy and loitering in and around their respective schools so that students may be disciplined to stay put in schools and pay attention to their lessons.
- 4) Parents and guardians should not neglect their responsibility to provide for members of their family irrespective of whether they are members by blood or by adoption.

- 5) Parents and guardians whose wards are involved in street hawking should endeavour to protect their wards from the corrupting influence of the society. They can achieve this by training their wards to eschew unacceptable behaviours, by not allowing anything to interfere with their education, and by respecting their right to a secure and happy childhood.

If the foregoing recommendations are implemented by relevant agencies, then a great deal would be achieved in the fight to forestall juvenile delinquency in the country and save the Nigerian child.

8. Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to find out the various problems associated with street hawking and how such problems affect the development of the hawkers in Uyo metropolis. Based on empirical findings, the effects of street hawking on moral laxity, truancy in schools, the future of the hawkers, and the role of poverty as a prime sustainer of street hawker were drawn out. Based on this, it becomes clear that the hostile environment of conflicting norms and values to which street hawkers are exposed makes them vulnerable to the acquisition of maladjusted patterns of behaviour. However, the adverse effects of long hours of street hawking on the total development of children could be minimized if the associated behaviour problems are identified early and managed properly.

References

- Aderinto, A. A. & Okunola, R. A. (1998). Push, pull and sustaining factors of child labour in Nigeria. *Ife Psychologia: An International Journal*, 6.1, 173-184.
- Akpusugh, M. (1986). Street hawking in a Nigerian city: A critical evaluation of its implication on the school achievement of the child. *An unpublished M.Ed. Thesis, University of Jos, Jos.*
- Amin, A. A. (1994). The Socio-Economic Impact of Child Labour in Nigeria, Akwa Ibom State, Uyo. In Ekpenyong, S. & Sibiri, A. (2011). Street Trading and Child Labour in Yenegoa. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Education.*, 4.1, 36-46.
- Anabogu, M. A. (2000). Dimensions of child abuse in Nigeria: Implications for counselling in Nigerian schools. *Journal of Counselling*, 1.1, 1-10.
- Andresen, N. C. (1984). *The Broken Brain*. New York: Harper and Row.
- Baland, J. & Robinson, J. A. (2000). Is Child Labour inefficient? *Journal of Political Economy*, 88. 3, 412-427.
- Bass, L. E. (2004). *Child Labour in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Lynne: Rienner Publishers.
- Basu, K. & Van, P. H. (1998). The Economics of Child Labour. *American Economic Review*, 108, 663-679.
- Buss, A. H. (1969). *Psychopathology*. New York: Wiley.
- Charles, O.C. & Chales A. O. (2004). Family of Child labour: A Study of child Hawkers in Calabar. *Journal of Social Development in Africa*, 4. 1, 12-21.
- Crosson T. C. (2008). *Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect*. Boston, MA. Person Education.
- Cruzador, P. (1998). Listen Children can Work? Newspaper on the 8th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, No. 9.
- Dantiye, S. & Haruna, A. (2004). Hawking: Child abuse or economic supplement for parents? [Online] Available: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200404300408.html>. (April 30, 2004).
- Draguns, J. G. (1985). Psychological Disorders Across Cultures. In P. Pederson (Ed). *Handbook of Cross-cultural Counselling and Therapy*. West Port, CT: Greenwood Press.
- Dunapo, S. O. (2002). Causative and sustaining factors to street hawking in Nigeria: implications to child development. In R. U. Okonkwo and R. O. Okoye (Eds). *The Learning Environment of the Nigerian Child*. Awka: Education Publishers.
- Ebigo, P. & Abaga, S. (1990) *Sexual experiences of street trading girls in the city of Enugu*. Paper presented at the 8th ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, in Hamburg, Germany.
- Ebigo, P. O. (2003). Child abuse in Africa: Nigeria as focus. *International Journal of Early Childhood*, 35.1 & 2, 95-113. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/BF03174436>
- Ekpenyong, S. N. & Sibiri, A. E. (2011). Street Trading and Child Labour in Yenegoa. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Education*, 4.1, 36-46.

- Erickson, E. H. (1968). *Identity, Youth, and Crisis*. New York: Norton.
- Ewuruigwe, F. A. (1986). Exploitation of Child Labour in Choba, Port Harcourt: A Political Economy Approach. In Uzodike, Eunice (1990). Child abuse and neglect in Nigeria—Socio-legal Aspects. *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family*, 4.1, 83-96. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/lawfam/4.1.83>
- Finkelman, B. (1995). *Introduction to Child Abuse: A Multidisciplinary Survey*. New York: Garland.
- Hughes, S.D. (2009). Child Abuse Spikes During Recession. CNB News. In Ekpenyong, S. & Sibiri, A. (2011). Street Trading and Child Labour in Yenegoa. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Education*, 4.1, 36-46
- International Labour Organizational (1999) Report on Nigeria Children.
- Murphy J.M, Jellinek M, Quinn O, Smith G, Poitrast F.G, Goshko M (1991). Substance Abuse & Serious Child Mistreatment. *Prevalence, Risk and Outcome in a Court Sample*, 15.3, 197-211.
- Nte, N. D. (2005) “The Political Economy of Child Labour in a Depressed Economy: The Case of Port Harcourt City, Nigeria”. In Ifeanacho, M. (Ed) *The Socio-Anthropological Perspective of African Development crisis*. A Publication of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.
- Onibokun, O. M. (2000). Child protection measures in Nigeria: Review of policies and laws protecting children from abuse in Nigeria. *The Right of the Child*, 4.1, 12-38.
- Robson, E. (2004). Children at work in Rural Northern Nigeria: pattern of Age Space and Gender. *Journal of Moral Studies*, 6.1, 10-05.
- Ross, S. (1996). Risk of physical abuse to Children of Spouse Abusing Parents. *Journal of Critical Ethics*, 20, 589.
- Ugudulunwa, C. A., Anakwe, A. I. & Mustapha, Y. A. (2004). Behaviour Problems of street hawking children in Jos metropolis. *The Nigerian Educational Psychologist*, 3, 24-33.

Table 1. The Contribution of Street Hawking to Truancy in Schools

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
1	Children involved in street hawking do not always stay in school during school hours	122	54	16	8	200
2	Juvenile street hawkers in Uyo metropolis often play truant in school	32	96	56	15	200
3	Juvenile street hawkers do not like staying in school for extra classes	124	54	16	6	200
4	Students involved in street hawking often leave school to roam the streets	70	90	26	14	200
5	Street hawkers often leave school without permission	62	98	32	8	200
Total		410	392	146	52	1000
<i>Expected frequencies</i>		82	78.4	29.2	10.4	

*Significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level ($df = 12$; calculated value of $X^2 = 148.28$; critical $X^2 = 21.03$)

Table 2. Street Hawking and Moral Laxity among the Hawkers in Uyo Metropolis

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
1	Street hawkers always use vulgar language	90	82	22	6	200
2	Street hawkers often get involved in examination malpractices	64	82	34	20	200
3	Street hawkers often resort to violence	76	82	32	10	200
4	Street hawkers are often disrespectful of others	68	78	44	10	200
5	Juvenile street hawkers are often rebellious	44	82	54	20	200
6	Juvenile street hawkers are seldom honest	46	60	64	30	200
7	Street hawkers often get involved in various immoral acts	74	74	34	18	200
8	Children involved in street hawking develop various behavioural problems	86	98	12	4	200

9	Children involved in street hawking often resort to the use of hard drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and marijuana.	74	72	44	10	200
10	Female children involved in street hawking often turn to prostitution	62	88	36	14	200
11	Street hawkers always go to school late	114	62	16	8	200
Total		798	860	392	150	2200
<i>Expected frequencies</i>		72.5	78.2	35.6	13.6	

*Significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level ($df = 30$; calculated value of $X^2 = 181.18$; critical $X^2 = 43.77$)

Table 3. Effects of Street Hawking on the Future of the Hawkers in Uyo Metropolis

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
1	Street hawkers always pass examinations	16	42	72	70	200
2	Street hawkers are always untidy	58	60	56	26	200
3	Street hawkers do not have a bright future	20	24	68	88	200
4	Street hawkers often sleep in class during lessons	64	84	32	20	200
5	Street hawking affects the future of the hawkers negatively	72	64	34	30	200
6	Juvenile street hawkers are never studious	56	78	50	16	200
Total		286	352	312	250	1200
<i>Expected frequencies</i>		47.7	58.7	52.0	41.7	

*Significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level ($df = 15$; calculated value of $X^2 = 235.80$; critical $X^2 = 25.00$)

Table 4. The Influence of Poverty on Street Hawking

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
1	Children get into street hawking because their parents are poor	64	84	32	20	200
2	Poverty is the primary cause of street hawking	90	50	30	30	200
3	Most street hawkers are NOT from poor parental background	64	62	40	34	200
4	Most guardians that send their wards into street hawking are NOT poor	74	66	32	28	200
Total		292	262	134	112	800
<i>Expected frequencies</i>		73	65.5	33.5	28	

*Significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level ($df = 9$; calculated value of $X^2 = 20.75$; critical $X^2 = 16.92$)

Table 5. The Predisposition of Street Hawkers to Stealing

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL
1	Street hawkers often steal from people	52	52	70	26	200
2	Street hawking does not necessarily lead to stealing by the hawkers	34	104	48	14	200
3	Street hawking predisposes the hawkers to stealing	32	62	72	34	200
4	Juvenile street hawkers are most likely to be involved in petty theft	40	100	46	14	200
Total		158	318	236	88	800
<i>Expected frequencies</i>		39.5	79.5	59.0	22.0	

*Significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level ($df = 9$; calculated value of $X^2 = 55.27$; critical $X^2 = 16.92$)