

## Contribution of Parenting Towards Child Labour: A Case Study of Port Moresby (PNG)

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**Abstract:** Child parenting is very vital, a key aspect regardless of prospect circumstances. Every child has rights to live in decent environment and be educated. In developing countries, child labor use has increasingly widespread over the years. Generally was characterized by low wages and long hours of work under dangerous, hazardous, unhealthy and unhygienic conditions, which could lead to poor physical and mental development. This study identifies issues in Port Moresby concerning the practice of parenting mistreatment towards children that deprives rights and future development. Frequently, the issues are quite usual and culturally practiced in PNG society. The purpose was conducted to document significant role of PNG government providing general Media Awareness Campaign to show respective individuals the significance of child's future development. The findings are expected to contribute awareness and alertness throughout media outlets towards the wider community for preparedness that child's natural development is important. This qualitative research design, analyzed the steps taken by PNG government to document distribution through awareness campaign in most effective strategic message of consideration "lessons to be learned" if you will, of how important parental input embedded. Ultimately those practices and behaviors of parental overriding child's rights are disbanded. The study revealed that overall attempts of awareness by Department of Labor and Industrial Relation of PNG in collaboration with International Labor Organization, through ILO International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor hazards. The government considerably obliged to clarifies importance of parenting and consequences of child labor phenomenon on Media Awareness Campaign.

**Keywords:** parenting; child labor; awareness

Port Moresby is the capital city of Papua New Guinea (PNG) contains population capacity almost half a million. The capital city is rapidly developing from last decade through new boosting development of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project. It's the only center where most departmental and company headquarters are located. The people comes from other provinces move to Port Moresby for an opportunity to sustain living. On that token; the more people flock into the capital city, the more over crowded it is. That leads to living standard difficulties regarding money, land, housing, food, children's clothing and education. The gravity of this problem has also led to the development and inclusion of labor standards.

In such situation occurs in Port Moresby, parents are finding very difficult to raise the children to an expected standard of living in a decent environment and receive quality education. Besides these demanding needs the livelihood of a child most likely being jeopardized; for instance to be served on a table, everybody as to play a role to meet the need at the end of the day. In that case, it precisely indicate how parenting involvement towards child to work anyway possible to earn money. Ultimately most children have been forced out from homes, some working and living on streets, and others are even forced by parent indirectly, stopping formal education.

According to the PNG government in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relation (DPLIR) in collaboration with International Labor Organization (ILO) tremendously addressing this issues conducted by International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor. It prompted this study to provide a more complete picture documented on “media outlets” of how parental input with children performance in various activities. Awareness of all media outlets to inform intentionally to eradicate and put a halt of such practices and behaviors by parents and comprehensively prohibit hazardous occupations and activities for children.

### Parental Problem in Port Moresby

Parental lack of discipline and educating children is one of the main aspects in Port Moresby that attracts a child to get involved in hazardous activities. However, the main problems are; lack of family income sources, parent’s divorced, single parenting (death), transiting from one place to another and other reason’s that also leads automatically towards child labor. Those are the common decision integrated by parents.

According to other valuable sources found out that parental time investment in children are highly recommended. For many researchers it has been important to understand how parents with different socioeconomic statuses interact with their children, since parental time invested in children is assumed to be an important determinant of children’s cognitive skills and well-being (Bonke and Esping-Andersen, 2011; Kalenkoski et al., 2005; Sayer et al., 2004a, 2004b).

A child’s livelihood and the future is determined by household interaction. The parent’s responsibility to provide basic needs and improvise manifestation of important situations occurs during the process of child’s growth. Eventually, children residing with family in Port Moresby on the settlements and scrap metal houses on hillsides at any vacant spaces available to live are easily exposed to child labor. Many parents are illiterate, can’t afford a job and living off from daily basis activities are the breeding ground where children involvement in hazardous work are found.

Moreover, Port Moresby is the city which attracts people from the rural areas in terms of fast growing development structures, daily income (quickest way to earn money) and job opportunities. Compared to other centers, the phases of delivering basic government service developments are slower and less focused. Even though, Port Moresby living cost categorized has higher demanding than any other South Pacific Nation cities except New Zealand but parents consider to migrate instead of other centers like Lae, Mt Hagen, Rabaul and townships.

### Reasons Contribute to Child Labor

Apparently, some of the top most reasons forced children involvement in hazardous activities are; For example...*low household income and child earned income to save up for future expenses*. The table below shows some of the many actual reasons of household and parental affected children contribute towards the labor standard practices.

Table 1. Reasons for Households Forcing Child for Child Labor

No.	List of Reasons Affected Child
1.	Family income too low
2.	Child is able to earn for his pocket expenses and for his educational needs, as well as saves for future
3.	No adult to work

4. Child doesn't want to go to school because he was influenced by peers not to go
  5. Need more money to pay off debts
  6. Child is happy and willing to work
  7. Child is influenced by money
  8. Utilizes his time wisely during holiday by earning some money and gaining experience
  9. No government support towards the family since we are poor i.e. in terms of scholarship
  10. Help other brothers and sisters in their expenses and educational needs
  11. Financial problem in relation to educational requirements
  12. School not taking because child was not performing well.
  13. Cost of living is high
  14. Helps family share the farm work load and helps in farming activities as result saves in labor cost
  15. Can't afford to meet extra school requirements such as fundraising, tickets and so on
  16. Child didn't wanted to join the new school
  17. No guidance towards Childs education and as well as for family
  18. Single parenting (widower)
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The table shows children's reasons to get involved in child labor. These many reasons are through household (parenting) disorder. According to children's view and their way of thinking is that getting involve with any possible work to earn something is much better than living without earning something. *"It's the way of the survival of fittest."* About most don't regret what they do but regret if they don't get involve to earn.

This is supported in an article by Joku who reported the opinions given by PNG children during the World Day against Child Labor 2009 celebrations; where these children attributed social issues such as poverty, lack of formal education and the rising standards of living as a cause for child labor in PNG. The article further mentioned that while these children were against child labor, they also believed that urban children must work in order to survive. In addition, Joku, reported that children in urban centers in PNG, particularly Port Moresby and Lae were being hired to perform tasks and chores to earn a living and that these centers have all the breeding grounds of unscrupulous employers and practices such as child labor.

Moreover, Papua New Guinea does not have legislation to comprehensively prohibit hazardous occupations and activities for children. Additionally, child labor laws are not effectively enforced and the lack of compulsory education may increase the risk of children's involvement in the worst forms of child labor. The Government lacks social programs to specifically assist children engaged in child labor in all relevant sectors.

## **THEORY AND EMPERICAL STUDIES**

The purpose of this study has three primary aims: (1) the government's collaboration with ILO Conventions provide universally legal framework to help distinguish worst form of child labor. (2) the government agencies and non-government organization in supportive of ILO

Convention legal framework to document the issues and enforcement of law for child labor in organized distribution strategic measured plan. And so contribute to the progress of relevant social discourse and theory, government policies and practices. Third, display the documentation of government ratified laws and consequences for future development regarded agreements at all social levels, and the every-day lives, relationships and experiences of children on child labor practices and activities through mainstream media awareness campaign. In this sense, an empirical study to the above aims, data's are use from secondary collection. The available information is on website online and various reports. However, the documented role by government are fundamental standard on abolition of child labor and consistently advising parents to progressively develop children in physical and mentally. Thus it is necessary to examine how effectual parenting decision determine the outcome of a child, the study conducted to display the responsibilities of parents to change behavior of children.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The method of analysis is qualitative approach and Secondary data was used for the purpose of this study. The secondary source data collection are from parenting and child labor data from various reports on labor standards, International Labor Organization (ILO) analyzed and articles on child labor from news outlets was also obtained to document the role of the government in creating awareness campaign regarding this phenomena. Research location, focused in Port Moresby and information data on affected children in Port Moresby was obtained from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relation of PNG in collaboration with International Labor Organization, through ILO International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor website online. Data analysis on this study done after the collection of data, transcribed all data as interpretation into written form.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The government of Papua New Guinea has various organization in collaboration with ILO and policies that are aimed at creating child labor awareness campaign for eradication and prohibit which can be described as follows;

-International Labor Organization (ILO)

The ILO Conventions of child labor provide the universally recognized legal framework which helps distinguish between child labor and acceptable children's work.

1. The ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age and Convention No. 182 which seeks to eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor, have been ratified by many countries. The fundamental international standard on child labor which requires ratifying states to:  
"Undertake to pursue a national policy designed to ensure the effective abolition of child labor and to rise progressively the minimum age for admission to employment or work to a level consistent with the fullest physical and mental development of young persons".
2. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child "protects the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children." It also defines a child as being under the age of 18, and includes under Article 32, the right of children to be protected from economic exploitation.

According to a report by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), child labor is outlawed in PNG given that the country has ratified ILO Conventions No. 138 and No. 182, however there are still some gaps in its implementation.

## Government Agencies and NGO's

In 2015, Papua New Guinea Government made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government adopted the country's first National Action Plan to Eliminate Child Labor and commenced implementation of a new social program aimed at identifying children working on the street and ensuring that they are returned to safe living situations and to school.

Firstly, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relation (DLIR) distribute awareness in other access ways to bring the message across to all schools, churches, youth groups, associations, in order to alert the wider community of the global perspective of international children right's protection.

Secondly, the Department of Community Development (DCD) completed three studies (1993, 2000, 2010) on Street Children in PNG highlighting the issue of street children as an emerging social issue. The involvement of the department play important role been identified the core problem of street children. Regarding DCD initiative, also to continue develop awareness reaching street children by proactive community outreach programs.

Thirdly, some non-government organizations (NGO's) have assisted street children in many ways. These include assistance provided by the "Tembari Children's Centre" at 7 miles (Port Moresby), who provided them early education and served the children food and provided money. The "Save the Children Fund" also assisted children who had unwanted pregnancies, such as single mothers and those who were sent away from home. Another organization that assisted street children was the "Institute of Mercy" in Australia. It supported people living on the edge such as those living in poverty. The government assistance be provided to those organizations to push forward the tireless effort and minimize the problem.

Moreover, the laws do exist on child labor, the legislative review highlighted that these laws were usually silent and that the implementation of these laws was unsatisfactory, even though there was a structure in place for implementation. There are other legislatures that relate to child labor laws, some of which include;

- a) The Lukautim Pikinini Act 2009;
- b) The Apprenticeship and Trade Testing Act 1986, that sets the minimum age for apprenticeship at 15 years;
- c) The Mining Act that sets the minimum working age at 16 but does not allow females to work underground;
- d) The Defense Act that sets the minimum enlistment age at 18 years.

The Government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms (Table 2).

Table 2 Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement

Organization/Agency	Role
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)	Implement and enforce child labor laws.
Department of Religion, Youth, and Community Development	Enforce the Child Bill ( <i>Lukautim Pikinini</i> ).
Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary Sexual Offenses Squad	Enforce laws against commercial sexual exploitation of children and the use of children in illicit activities.

Finally, the PNG government fully committed to most of the laws and policies put in place harmonizes, resulting in consistency and issues when it comes to implementing the policies and enforcing any laws addressing child labor. The government revives structures

reviewing laws by implementation of strict legislation effectively to prohibit child labor practices. In order for law be taken into account, every guardians, parents and children should consider the law. The documented messages are distributed out through media to general public and wider community's awareness for preparedness. These are importantly intended for parents especially to take extra responsibilities in advice and inform children to take precautions on that necessary measure.

### **Steps Taken on Mainstream Media Outlets**

The demonstration regarding the gaps is filled during awareness carried out through advertisements on television, radio, print media (newspapers, magazines) in various languages like English and Pidgin. Other awareness distribution is through flyers, stickers and brochures. With the PNG governments is fully committed with the implementation of strict legislation on Child Labor would allow all media to broadcast awareness campaign message across Port Moresby and other major centers as whole.

In Port Moresby, most media head office is located. There are three available television network stations are currently televised on air across PNG namely "EMTV" "KUNDUTV" "TVWAN" are to carry out television media advertisement every on commercial break. Many other TV stations are connected as well but those three stations are locally owned and every parts of PNG it is reachable for viewers to receive message across in many isolated areas. In addition, a specific television program set by the government to be televised in all television media every once a week on child parenting issues. Thus, television has enormous potential to affect attitudes and stereo- types (Mutz & Goldman, 2010).

Secondly, the local print media (newspapers) companies are also available to distribute daily, "The NATIONAL" "POST COURIER" and "WANTOK" newspaper. The daily papers also contribute awareness to people are not fortunate to watch television which can be available on the streets. In addition, the inclusion of other necessary ways such as putting billboards or signboards on streets and main highways for by pass travelers. In every store, office (company, private or government), hotels, and any available spots to put posters, booklets, sticker, card, bracelet, printed T-shirts, car bumper stickers, and it's all other necessary of any applicable ways to bring the awareness message across.

Finally, this study prompts to supports the government and NGOs partners to accomplish the implementations of law and expand regulations provided for parents to take ownership and responsible over children. Although the documented message as awareness is efficient procedures, it will guide individual's (parents and children) behavior and also mentored to archive betterment in children's future development.

### **CONCLUSION**

Child Labor use is a global phenomenon which addressed by ILO to eradicate. Papua New Guinea's labor laws do not specifically define the hazardous occupations and activities prohibited for children, and the minimum age at which children are permitted to engage in light work is not in compliance with international standards. Parental involvement influences children escalating in child labor and risk of suffering from hazardous activities for future developments. These parental involvement factors push the parents to do such decisions for sustainable outcome, but significantly produce worst from the children.

Therefore, there is a need to address this issue of child labor on effective ways to focus on wider view and accessible for every individual. Further, the Government in Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) should adopt the National Action Plan to Eliminate

Child Labor and commenced implementation of a new social program aimed at identifying parental involvement in children working on the streets, hazardous activities and ensuring that they are returned to safe living situations and to school.

In addition, the Media Awareness Campaign (MAC) which informs and declares local populations about how the consequences of child labor will manifest in child's near future and the labor laws. MAC initiatives may consist of individual activities such as touring streets to conduct child labor awareness meetings, or posting posters and giving out booklets, stickers at available venue. With the distributed documents consist of labor laws and its consequences, a second comprehensive MAC approached entails planning a Week of Child Labor Awareness Campaign message through schools, residential, offices and public forums. And the effective awareness perhaps would be continuous mass media awareness in TV, radio, newspapers (print media) social media (Facebook page) and other media sources.

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