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Empirical Assessment of Child Labour Practices Among Cocoa Farmers in Ife East, Osun State, Nigeria

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Abstract
This study examines the prevalence and cause of child labour practices among cocoa farmers in Ife East Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria. Despite global and national efforts to eradicate child labour, its occurrence remains persistent in Nigeria's agricultural sector, predominantly within cocoa-producing communities. A multi-stage sampling method was employed to select 120 cocoa farmers across 12 villages within six randomly selected wards in the study area. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive statistics, factor analysis, chi-square tests, and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). The results showed a significant reliance on child labour, determined by socioeconomic factors such as household size, income level, educational status, and access to agricultural extension services. Most respondents indicated that children were sporadically or constantly involved tasks such as weeding, harvesting, and transporting cocoa pods. Regression analysis indicated that lower household income and limited access to extension services significantly predicted the use of child labour. The study underpins the economic and social weights compelling farmers to engage children in labour-intensive farming activities. Based on these results, it is recommended that government and development agencies strengthen awareness campaigns, reinforce rural education systems, and deliver targeted economic support to cocoa-producing households. These interventions are crucial in plummeting the dependence on child labour and fostering sustainable agricultural practices.

Keywords: Child labour, Cocoa farming, Rural livelihoods, Sustainable agriculture.

Introduction
Cocoa has historically served as a pillar of Nigeria's agricultural economy, aiding significantly to rural livelihoods and foreign exchange earnings. It generates income for most rural farmers in Nigeria and serves as a support for their livelihood particularly in the South West states (Kehinde *et al*., 2022). Nigeria presently ranks among the world's top four producers of cocoa beans, following Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Indonesia, with an annual output of nearly 300–350 metric tons—of that about 96% is exported (Afolayan, 2020). Between 1950 and 1960, cocoa was the highest source of foreign exchange in Nigeria (Kehinde, 2021).

The discovery of oil in 1970, together with other factors such as socio-economic factor, has relegated cocoa to the second position in terms of foreign exchange earnings for the country. The crop's socio-economic pertinence is hinged by its role in employment generation, supplying of raw materials for agro-industries, and income provision for smallholder laborers. Cocoa farming is concentrated in 14 of Nigeria's 36 states, with the South-West zone contributing to over 80% of national production (Ajagbe *et al*., 2021).

Agriculture involves a lot of hazards that affect humans on long- and short-term bases. Cocoa farm operations can be full of hazards, particularly in the presence of low health and safety standards and can lead to injury and consequently, death. Children are fragile since the various organs of their bodies and

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minds are still in the development process. Child labor is any work that is harmful to a child's health, any kind of work that violates children's fundamental human rights, and is dangerous to their bodies and prevents them from going to school to gain knowledge for their future development (Haworth *et al*., 2012)

The United Nations Conventions on the right of the child in 1989, defines child as anyone under the age of 18 and affirms the right of the child, to be protected from economic exploitation and any work likely to be hazardous or to interfere, with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development (UNESCO, 2008). In the same vein, Hazardous Child Labour (HCL) can be referred to as work in dangerous or unhealthy conditions, that, could result in child being killed or injured (often permanently), and or made ill (often permanently) as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements (Canton, 2021).

Child labour is a threat in the path of children's and society's attainment of sustainable developments. This is because discovering and learning to one's fullest potential during childhood determines what opportunities will be available not only to the individual but also to the next generations (Newman, 2014). Child labor is that work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and dignity, and that is harmful to physical-mental development (Basu & Tzannatos, 2013). It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work (UNESCO, 2008). Child labor violates human rights, and is in contravention of the International Labor Organization. It shrinks their opportunities for schooling and also enslaves them and separate them from their families. In most cases, this practice is often violation of international laws and national legislation on children's rights. (Alexandru, 2021). Child labour is work that harms children's wellbeing and hinders their education, development and future livelihoods. Child labour is work which by its nature and/or the way it is carried out, harms, abuses and exploits the child or deprives the child of an education (Chukwudeh *et al*., 2021).

Globally, agriculture remains the leading sector employing child labour, accounting for almost 60% of the estimated 129 million child labourers aged 5 to 17 (Carter, 2017). According to Takeshima *et al*. (2022) and Hindman *et al*. (2014), over 129 million girls and boys aged 5 to 17 years old work in crop and livestock production, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry helping supply some of the food and drink we consume and the fibres and raw materials we use to make other products. In Nigeria, juvenile labour in cocoa farming continues due to socio-economic pressures, cultural norms, and inadequate regulatory oversight. It is frequently perceived as one adolescents's simple preparation for adult trustworthiness, containing eventual heritage of offspring farmlands (Adeniyi *et al*., 2014).

While few forms of minors's participation in farming may not qualify as child labour- such as age-appropriate, non-perilous tasks that do restrict education—many others are exploitative and hazardous. These practices not only limit educational opportunities but also bolster intergenerational phases of want (Basu & Tzannatos, 2003; Ofuoku *et al*., 2014).

Problem Statements

Child labour in the agricultural sector remains prevalent, specifically in cocoa-producing regions. Notwithstanding the sector's hazardous nature and the existence of legal frameworks prohibiting such practices, enforcement remains feeble. Children, some as young as six, are committed in tasks that pose meaningful physical and subjective risks (Carter, 2017). However, children are physiologically immature, they have risk-taking behavior with greater willingness to go extra mile without realizing the impact of hazards. Also, children learn poor health and safety behavior from adult and in terms of organization and rights, they are virtually powerless (Owusu-Amankwah, 2015).

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In Nigeria, cultural norms habitually legitimize the participation of children in farm work, under the opinion that it serves as a basic stage for maturity and financial liberty. However, this outlook masks the severe sensibilities of dicey child labour and hides the need for monitoring intervention. The lack of systematic data on harms and fatalities further disguises the extent of harm provoked by child labour in cocoa production (Karikari, 2016).

Given the corporeal inexperience of youth and their susceptibleness to workplace accidents, essential consideration is necessary. In light of these concerns, this study seeks to evaluate the prevalence and cause of child labour in cocoa farming in Ife East Local Government Area of Osun State.

Research Questions.

i. What are the socio-economic characteristics of cocoa farmers in the study region?
ii. To what extent is child labour utilized in cocoa production in the study region?
iii. What are the key factors driving the use of child labour among cocoa farmers?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the extent and determinants of child labour usage in cocoa farming activities in Ife East Local Government Area, Osun State.

The specific objectives are to:

i. Describe the socio-economic characteristics of cocoa farmers in the study area;
ii. Assess the level of child labour engagement in cocoa farming;
iii. Identify the socio-economic and cultural factors influencing the use of child labour in cocoa production.

Hypothesis of the Study

Ho1: There is no statistically significant relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of cocoa farmers and the extent of child labour usage in cocoa farming.

Justification

Children epitomize a critical demographic for sustainable development, as their welfare has unswerving implications for upcoming generations and national growth. Safeguarding their protection from exploitative labour is not only an ethical imperative but also a developmental obligation. This study offers evidence-based insights that can inform policymakers, worldwide institutions (for example, UNICEF, ILO), and community-based organizations involved in child welfare and agricultural development. It contributes to the existing knowledge base and offers a framework for formulating interventions designed at lowering child labour in farming. Furthermore, this research findings will help reduce the knowledge gap about the socio-economic-related trade-offs of child labour and serve as a locus for future studies, policy design, and program implementation in Nigeria and other cocoa-producing regions.

Research Methods

Description of the Study Area

The study was carried out in Ife East Local Government Area (LGA) of Osun State, Nigeria. The LGA has administrative headquarters in Oke Ogbo and occupies an extent of 172 square kilometers. According to the 2006 national census, the population stands at 188,087. Ife East is situated in the southwestern some Nigeria, nearly 200 kilometers northeast of Lagos. It shares lines accompanying Ife Central to the west, Ife North to the northward, Orolu to the east, and Atakumosa East to the south. The climate is classified as Tropical Savannah, characterized by two obvious seasons—dry and rainy—with an average annual temperature of 28°C and humidity level of 59%. The region is predominantly agrarian, with cocoa, yam, and cassava being the major crops. Small-scale industries such as food processing, textiles, and furniture

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production also exist. The inhabitants are primarily of Yoruba ethnicity, and Yoruba is the most widely spoken language.

Population and Sampling

The population for this study comprised cocoa farmers residing in Ife East Local Government Area of Osun State.

A multistage sampling technique was adopted for the selection of respondents:

- **Stage One**: Ife East LGA was purposively selected due to its high concentration of cocoa farmers.
- **Stage Two**: Out of the 10 wards in the LGA (Moore, Ilode I, Ilode II, Okerewe I, Okerewe II, Okerewe III, Yekemi, Modakeke I, Modakeke II, and Modakeke III), 6 wards were randomly selected: Okerewe I, Okerewe II, Okerewe III, Modakeke I, Modakeke II, and Yekemi.
- **Stage Three**: Two villages were randomly chosen from each of the selected wards, resulting in a total of 12 villages.
- **Stage Four**: From each village, 10 cocoa farmers were randomly selected, giving a final sample size of 120 respondents.

Instrument for Data Collection

Primary data were collected using a well-structured and pre-tested questionnaire administered with guidance from the research supervisor.

Measurement of Variables

Dependent Variable

The dependent variable is the *level of child labour usage* in cocoa farming. This was measured using a Likert-type scale:

- Always = 2; Occasionally = 1; Not at all = 0

Independent Variables

Socio-economic characteristics were measured as follows:

- **Age**: Measured at the interval level, respondents stated their age in years.
- **Sex**: Nominal scale; Male = 1, Female = 2
- **Marital Status**: Nominal scale; Single = 1, Married = 2, Divorced = 3, Widow/Widower = 4
- **Educational Status**: Nominal scale; No formal education = 1, Primary = 2, Secondary = 3, Tertiary = 4
- **Religion**: Nominal scale; Islam = 1, Christianity = 2, Traditional = 3, Others = 4
- **Household Size**: Measured at the interval level by the number of household members
- **Secondary Occupation**: Nominal scale; Transporter = 1, Trader = 2, Civil Servant = 3, Others = 4
- **Access to Extension Services**: Nominal scale; Yes = 1, No = 2
- **Monthly Income**: Interval scale; respondents reported their monthly income in Naira
- **Factors Influencing Child Labour Usage**: Binary scale; Yes = 1, No = 2, based on whether respondents identified specific factors as influencing child labour usage.

Data Analysis

Data collected were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics such as frequency distributions, means, and percentages were used to summarize respondents' socio-economic characteristics and levels of child labour usage. Inferential statistics included:

- **Regression Analysis**: Used to determine the effect of socio-economic variables on the use of child labour.

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- **Factor Analysis**: Applied to identify underlying factors contributing to child labour involvement.
- **Chi-square and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC)**: Employed to test the study's hypotheses and establish relationships between variables.

Results and Discussion

Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Sex: As presented in Table 1, majority (56.0%) of the respondents were male, while 44.0% were female. This indicates a male predominance in cocoa farming within the study area. The higher percentage of male farmers may be ascribed to the physically challenging nature of cocoa farming, which involves activities such as tillage and harvesting. This finding aligns with Maduka *et al*. (2023) who reported that males principally engage in cocoa cultivation, while females are more involved in lighter activities such as processing, harvesting, and marketing.

Age: Table 1 shows that 53.0% of respondents were aged above 51 years, with 33.0% between 20–30 years, 9.0% between 31–40 years, and 5.0% between 41–50 years. The average age was 53 years, suggesting that most cocoa farmers in the area are older adults. The aging farming population may not be physically fit for labor-intensive farm operations, invariably increasing reliance on child labour.

Religion: The majority of respondents (60.0%) recognized as Christians, followed by Muslims (37.0%), and adherents of traditional religion (3.0%). This classification suggests that religion does not considerably influence the use of child labour in cocoa farming.

Educational Status: According to Table 1, 30.0% of respondents had accomplished secondary education, 27.0% had no formal education, and 16.0% had tertiary education. This shows a moderate literacy level among cocoa farmers, which may can absolutely influence their understanding and adoption of improved agricultural practices. This finding supports Adisa & Adeloye (2012), who noticed that most cocoa farmers have at least secondary education.

Household Size: The results in Table 1 show that 60.0% of respondents had households with 1–4 members, 29.4% had 5–8 members, and 11.0% had more than 9 members. The average household size was four members, indicating a conceivably inadequate supply of family labour for farm work.

Secondary Occupation: The majority (70.0%) of respondents were also civil servants, while 30.0% were engaged in private businesses. Being employed in non-farm sectors may contribute to increased reliance on child labour to handle agricultural activities.

Table 1: Socio Economic Characteristics of cocoa production

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Age			
20-30	33	33.0	
31-40	9	9.0	
41-50	5	5.0	
51 and above	53	53.0	53
Sex			
Male	56	56.0	
Female	44	44.0	
Education status			
No formal education	27	27.0	
Primary education	16	16.0	

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Secondary education	30	30.0	
Tertiary education	27	27.0	
Religion			
Islam	37	37.0	
Christianity	60	60.0	
Traditional	3	3.0	
Marital status			
Single	25	25.0	
Married	54	54.0	
Divorced	12	12.0	
Widowed	9	9.0	
Household size			
1-4	60	60.0	4
5-8	29	29.0	
9 and above	11	11.0	
Secondary occupation			
Private business	30	30.0	
Civil servant	70	70.0	
Years of experience			
Less than 10years	64	64.0	10
11-20	21	21.0	
21 and above	15	15.0	
Farm size			
Less 10 years	51	51.0	8
11-20	26	26.0	
21 and above	23	23.0	
Type of labour used			
Hired	68	68.0	
Family	21	21.0	
Self	11	11.0	

Source: Field survey, 2024

Farming Experience: Most respondents (64.0%) had 1–10 years of farming experience, 21.0% had 11–20 years, and 15.0% had over 21 years of experience. The average farming experience was 10 years, signifying that the respondents were moderately experienced. This finding supports Oyediran *et al*. (2020), who noted that farming experience is often linked to age and influences the adoption of agricultural innovations.

Farm Size: Table 1 indicates that 64.0% of respondents operated farms of 1–10 acres, 26.0% had 11–20 acres, and 23.0% had more than 21 acres. The mean farm size was 8 acres. Larger farms may necessitate more labour, possibly increasing dependance on children for assistance.

Source of Labour: The major source of labour among respondents was hired labour (68.0%), followed by family labour (21.0%), and self-labour (11.0%). The high dependency on hired labour may resonates the size and labour demands of cocoa farms in the study area.

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Level of Usage of Child Labour in Cocoa Farming

Table 2: Level of usage of child labour on cocoa farming

Cocoa production activities	Always	Occasionally	Not at all	Mean	Rank
Pesticide and insecticide application	44(44.0)	56(56.0)	0(0.0)	1.44	12
Land/bush clearing	53(53.0)	47(47.0)	0(0.0)	1.53	11
Shading	58(58.0)	42(42.0)	0(0.0)	1.58	9
Planting	64(64.0)	36(36.0)	0(0.0)	1.64	8
Weeding	72(72.0)	28(28.0)	0(0.0)	1.72	6
Fertilizer application	66(66.0)	34(34.0)	0(0.0)	1.66	7
Pruning	79(79.0)	21(21.0)	0(0.0)	1.79	4
Pod breaking	92(92.0)	8(8.0)	0(0.0)	1.92	1
Harvesting/cleaning	88(88.0)	12(12.0)	0(0.0)	1.88	2
Transportation	81(81.0)	19(19.0)	0(0.0)	1.81	3
Fermentation	74(74.0)	26(24.0)	0(0.0)	1.74	5
Drying	56(56.0)	44(44.0)	0(0.0)	1.56	10

Source: Field survey, 2024

Figures in parentheses are in percentage

Table 2 presents the level of child labour usage across different cocoa farming activities. Children were regularly involved in pod breaking (mean = 1.92), cleaning and harvesting (mean = 1.92), and transportation (mean = 1.81), which ranked first through third respectively. Other significant tasks involved harvesting (mean = 2.55) and pruning (mean = 1.79). Activities needing substantial physical strength or posing chemical risks, such as land clearing (mean = 1.53) and pesticide application (mean = 1.44), had the lowest mean values.

These results suggest that minors are principally engaged in less strenuous and low-risk tasks. However, few of these tasks, which includes field preparation, pesticide application, and fertilizer use, are considered harmful for children. The U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) considers such tasks inappropriate for children under 16 due to exposure risks Donovan & Shimabukuro 2016). Similarly, studies by Ofuoku *et al*. (2014), cautioned that exposure to agrochemicals may result in severe health consequences for children.

Categorization Based on Level of Child Labour Usage

Figure 1 classifies respondents by their extent of child labour usage. A moderate level was stated by 56.0% of respondents, while 40.0% reported high usage, and only 4.0% reported low usage. This shows that the majority of cocoa farmers in the area moderately engage child labour in farm operations.

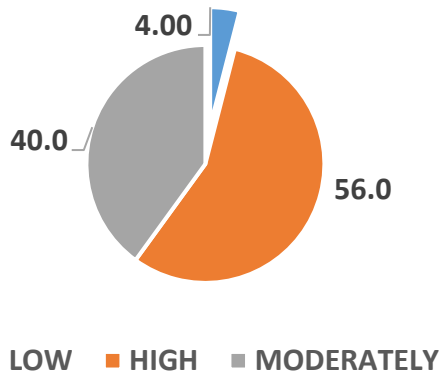

Fig 1: Categorization of the respondents based on level of usage of child labour on cocoa farming

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Factors Influencing the Use of Child Labour in Cocoa Farming

Table 3: Factors Influencing the Use of Child Labour in Cocoa Farming

Factors	Yes	No
Cultural or Family Traditions	50(50.0)	50(50.0)
High cost of labor.	81(81.0)	19(19.0)
High cost of living	84(84.0)	16(16.0)
Household size	80(80.0)	20(20.0)
Knowledge acquisition	76(76.0)	24(24.0)
Lack of accessible, affordable and quality education	71(71.0)	24(24.0)
Low income	79(79.0)	21(21.0)
Personal interest	67(67.0)	33(33.0)
Poverty	78(78.0)	22(22.0)
Training children to be independent	83(83.0)	17(17.0)
Transmission of farming skills and knowledge	64(64.0)	36(36.0)
Uneducated of parent/guardian	56(56.0)	44(44.0)

Source: Field survey, 2024
Figures in parentheses are in percentage

Table 3 outlines the major causal factors to the use of child labour. Key drivers comprise high cost of living (84.0%), the need to train children to be self-reliant (83.0%), high labour costs (81.0%), household size (80.0%), low income (79.0%), poverty (78.0%), knowledge acquisition (76.0%), and inadequate access to quality education (71.0%). These findings support Carter (2017), which stated that economic hardship necessitates children to work to support household income and education. Togunde & Richardson (2004) also stressed that larger household sizes increase the likelihood of child labour. In areas with limited access to formal education and essential services, child labour becomes more prevailing.

Regression Analysis: Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Child Labour Usage

Table 4: Regression analysis showing the effect of socio-economic factors influencing child labour usage in cocoa production

Variables	B	Std. Error	T	p-value	Decision
(Constant)	1.300	0.674	1.929	0.057	
Age	-0.005	0.003	-1.520	0.132	NS
Sex	0.060	0.164	0.364	0.717	NS
Education status	-0.122	0.091	-1.346	0.182	NS
Religion	0.125	0.161	0.778	0.439	NS
Marital status	0.104	0.127	0.824	0.412	NS
Household size	-0.003	0.039	-0.067	0.007	S
Secondary occupation	0.143	0.156	0.915	0.363	NS
Years of experience	-0.002	0.009	-0.223	0.000	NS
Farm size	0.004	0.009	0.426	0.001	S
Type of labour used	-0.085	0.124	-0.688	0.493	NS
Adjusted R^2	0.778				
f-value	0.924				
P-value	0.005				

Source: Field survey, 2024
NS: Not significant, S: Significant

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A multiple regression analysis was conducted to evaluate the relationship between socio-economic characteristics and factors influencing child labour usage. Key findings from Table 4 include:

Age: Table 4 revealed that age of the farmers had negative coefficient value implying that there is an inverse effect on factors responsible for involvement of child labour in cocoa production and showed no significant differences (p=0.132) on factors responsible for involvement of child labour in cocoa production

Sex: Table 4 revealed that sex had positive coefficient value which had direct positive influence on factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production and showed no significant differences (p=0.717) on the factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production

Educational status: Table 4 shows that respondents educational status had negative coefficient, implying that there is an inverse effect of educational status on factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production and showed no significant difference (p=0.182) on the factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production.

Religion: Table 4 revealed that religion also had positive coefficient implying that there is a direct effect of religion on factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production and showed no significant difference (p=0.439) on factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production in the study area

Marital status: Table 4 revealed that marital status also had positive coefficient implying that there is a direct effect of marital status on factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production and showed significant difference (p=0.412) on factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production

Household size: Table 4 revealed that respondents household size had negative coefficient, implying that there is an inverse effect of household size on factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production and showed significant difference (p=0.107) on the factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production.

Secondary Occupation: Table 4 shows that secondary occupation of the respondents is positive and had direct positive influence on factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production and showed no significant differences (p=0.363) on the factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production

Farming experience: Table 4 revealed that respondents farming experience had negative coefficient, implying that there is an inverse effect of farming experience on factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production and showed significant difference (p=0.000) on the factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production.

Farm size: Result in Table 4 revealed that farm size of the respondents had positive coefficient implying that there is direct effect of farm size on factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production and showed significant difference (p=0.001) on the factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production

Types of labour: Table 4 revealed that respondents types of labour had negative coefficient, implying that there is an inverse effect of types of labour on factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production and showed no significant difference (p=0.493) on the factors responsible for usage of child labour in cocoa production.

The adjusted R^2 value of 0.778 shows that 77.8% of the variation in child labour usage can be explained by these socio-economic factors. Since the overall model was significant (p = 0.005), the null hypothesis was rejected. This confirms that socio-economic characteristics significantly influence the use of child labour in cocoa farming.

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The results suggest that while many variables showed no statistical significance individually, farming experience and farm size significantly influenced the use of child labour in cocoa farming.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study evaluated the prevalence and drivers of child labour in cocoa production in Ondo State, Nigeria. The findings exposed that child labour remains moderately to highly prevalent among cocoa farming households, with children often engaged in tasks such as pod breaking, harvesting, and transportation. Socio-economic factors such as household income, cost of hired labour, educational access, and farm size were figured out as significant contributors to child labour. Regression analysis additionally established that farming experience and farm size significantly influenced the use of child labour. Farmers with less experience and larger farms were more likely to engage children in cocoa farming activities. The high cost of living, poverty, and the perception that child involvement encourages self-reliance also played major roles in maintaining the practice. Overall, while child labour in the study area is slightly driven by necessity, it raises weighty ethical, health, and developmental concerns. Addressing these issues needs a holistic approach that combines economic support, education access, and awareness campaigns. Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

i. **Promote Access to Quality Education:** Access to free or affordable quality education should be enhanced and encouraged by government and non-governmental organizations in rural areas. This includes infrastructure development, teacher placement, and provision of learning resources.
ii. **Subsidize Labour Costs for Farmers:** Introducing subsidies or labour-sharing cooperatives can help lessen the financial burden of hiring adult labour, discouraging dependence on child workers.
iii. **Support for Smallholder Farmers**: Provision of grants, soft loans, and inputs to small-scale cocoa farmers can increase output and lessen the economic burden that often leads to child labour.
iv. **Strengthen Agricultural Extension Services:** Extension agents should be enabled to educate farmers on the perils of child labour and the enduring benefits of keeping children in school.
v. **Introduce Alternative Income Sources:** Encouraging diversification through vocational training and off-season employment opportunities can minimize families' economic dependence on children's farm work.
vi. **Community Sensitization:** Continuous awareness campaigns should be carried out to change community perceptions about child labour and advance child rights and welfare.
vii. **Enforce Child Labour Laws:** Strengthening the enforcement of national and international labour laws will check child labour practices and protect vulnerable children.

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