

Human Rights and Child Labour Issues in Ghana: A Case Study along the Volta Lake

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Abstract

Child labour remains irrefutable problem in Ghana. The human rights of these children are abused as their right to education and other privileges are taken away from them. To protect the human right of these children, Brighter Life International – a human resource private based voluntary organisation has been working in these child labour stricken communities since 2006 to bring hope to the children. In this regard, I chose to work with Brighter Life International to study the child labour and basic education in the South eastern and western banks of the Lake Volta in Ghana in the year 2019. While working with Brighter Life International, I took interest to undertake a project on the human right issues of the children. The specific objective set for the project was to: explore the nature of activities undertaken by school children in the rural and urban communities along the Volta Lake, find out the extent to which schooling and forceful labour were combined by children and assess how child labour prevalence along the Volta Lake affects basic education. The project was a qualitative exploratory in nature. Field observations and interviews were carried out to obtain the project data. The project found that, children in the villages along the Volta Lake engage in two main activities: farming and fishing. The study again found that, the rural children usually join their parents immediately after school to work in the farm. The study also observed that children (pupils) in labour have unsatisfactory end of term results and continuous assessment compared to the children teachers identified to be non-working. The findings contradict with the conventions of Child Rights to have the right to be protected from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous to their health, interfere in their education, physical, mental, spiritual and social development.